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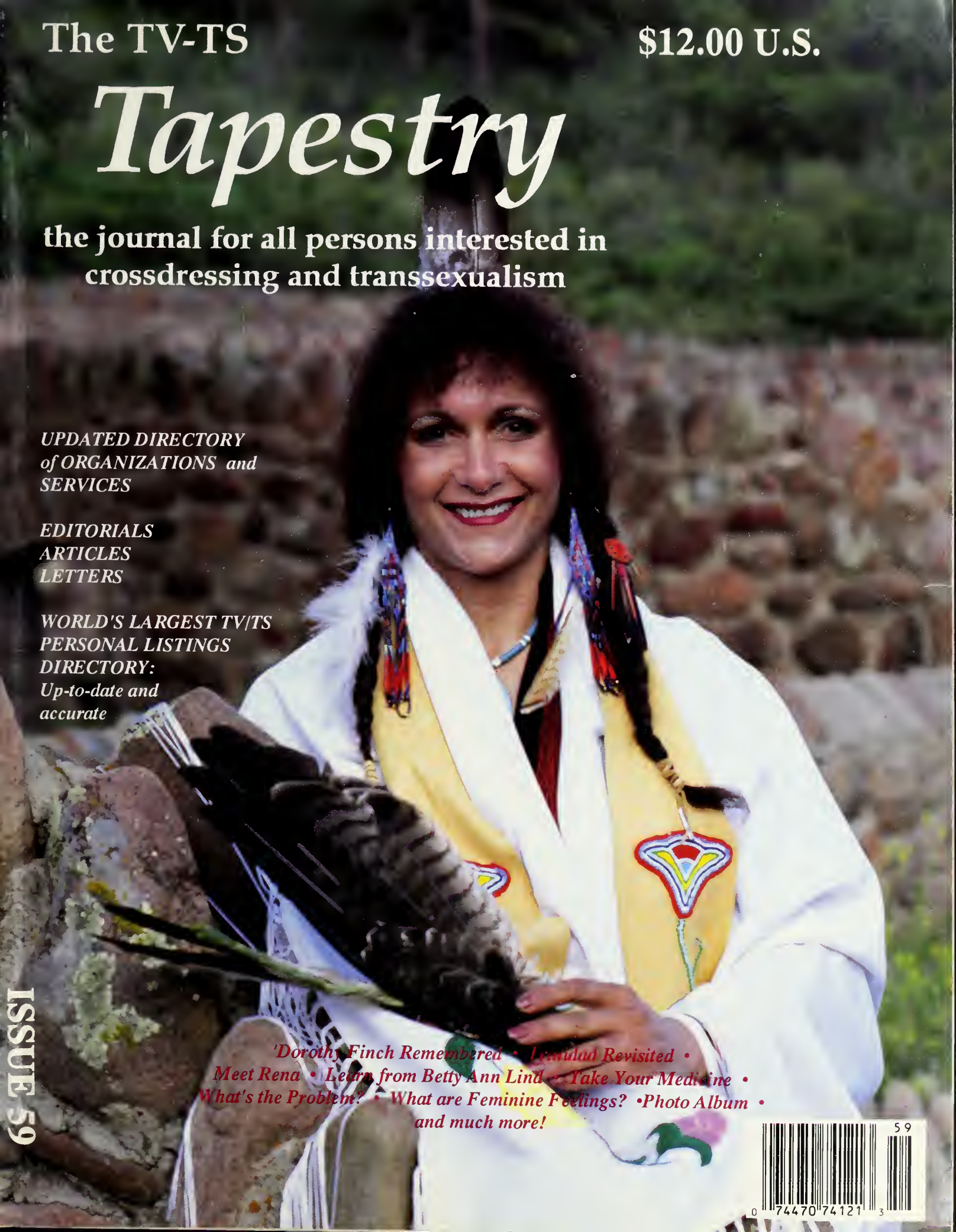
Tapestry

the journal for all persons interested in crossdressing and transsexualism



UPDATED DIRECTORY of ORGANIZATIONS and SERVICES

EDITORIALS
ARTICLES
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WORLD'S LARGEST TV/TS PERSONAL LISTINGS DIRECTORY: Up-to-date and accurate

Dorothy Finch Remembered • Lemuda Revisited • Meet Rena • Learn from Betty Ann Lind • Take Your Medicine • What's the Problem? • What are Feminine Feelings? •Photo Album • and much more!

ISSUE 59

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Portrait Credit: Mariette Pathy Allen, 100 Riverside Dr., Apt 15A/B, NYC, NY 10024 212-496-0655

IN MEMORIAM

DOROTHY ANN FINCH
August 10, 1922 - August 14, 1991

Obituary:

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada: Dorothy Ann Finch passed away 3:00 pm, Wednesday, August 14, 1991, after a long illness.

Auntie Dorothy was one of our community's most beloved members, and one of its strongest supporters and best friends. Dorothy was the founder of the Cornbury Society in Vancouver, a founding member of NWGA, and a member of Emerald City and of TCNE. She was an active participant in most major events, including 'Coming Together', DREAM (elected 'Grand Dame' in 1979), Fantasia Fair, Be All, Texas T-Party, Tiffany's P-town Outing, '90 In 90', Pajaro Dunes, and many others. She was involved in the original long range planning of IFGE, and in the development of its constitution. She was also directly involved in the planning of the 'Coming Together' convention, and in '90 In 90'. From 1987 until her death, she served as an alternate on the IFGE Board of Directors and on the IFGE Nominations and Awards Committee. She has long taken a leadership role in the Northwest, and was a strong supporter of cooperative action. In addition to her leadership, Dorothy loved to entertain, and will probably best be remembered for her portrayal of the cockney duchess, 'Mrs. Shufflewick'.

Dorothy was a leader, and an entertainer, but most of all, she was our friend. She made us cry, she made us laugh, she made us happy. She cared about us, and worked hard to make life a little better for us all. Dorothy Ann Finch was one of our community's very best.

=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=

Dorothy Ann Finch
(portrait: Mariette Pathy Allen)

PERSONAL MEMORIES OF DOROTHY FINCH

By: Merissa Sherrill Lynn

I have no wish to mourn Dorothy, nor do I wish to sing the praises of her contributions to our community. Our sense of loss speaks for itself, and her contributions speak for themselves. Besides, that's what obituaries are for. I would rather sing the praises of Dorothy, the person, for she was a remarkable human being who enriched the lives of everyone she touched, especially mine, and she was my friend.

Every now and then someone comes along who, through the sheer magic of their personality, makes you feel good. They could light up a room simply by entering it. Dorothy was one of those people. I loved Dorothy. Still do. Probably

always will. She was plain old good people, and I enjoyed every minute I was with her, beginning with the first moment we met.

We met during Fantasia Fair, back when the Fair was in its infancy, in a dark depressing bar called The Madeira Room. The place was painted unimaginative black, the smoke hung in the air like fog, and the ceiling was so low you could touch it. There was some sort of a talent show going on, and I couldn't wait to leave. I hated smokey claustrophobic bars, and was bored silly with talent shows. Then, to my surprise, a rather dignified middle-aged lady, small in stature but very British, stiff upper lip and all that, got up on stage. "Good heavens, what's this?", I said to myself. She stood stiff as a post, with an expression on her face that looked like she was about to do something serious. I was half expecting a rousing rendition of 'Rule Britannia', when, with a cockney accent rich and sweet, she began singing, "In the Tower of London large as life, the ghost of Ann Bolin walks they declare ... Oh, Ann Bolin was once King Henry's wife, until he had the headsman bob her hair..." At last, at last, my kind of person singing my kind of song. By the time she got to the chorus I was right with her, "With 'er 'ead tucked underneath 'er arm, she waaaaalked the bloody tower ..." As soon as I joined in, the little British lady jumped off the stage, started waving her arms about like a concert conductor, and everyone joined in. Suddenly the Madeira Room became a concert hall filled with the music of joy.

Dorothy & Merissa, ~ 1978

~ 1981

That night Dorothy and I stayed up until nearly dawn singing virtually every dirty song ever written. We have been the best of friends ever since.

Most of the people I knew were either ski bums or engineers, but Dorothy was different. She was British Royal Navy right to her marrow. (During the war her ship captured a German U-boat that had a crossdresser aboard who was obviously very well cared for by the crew. Oh, those long months at sea -- but that's another story.) Dorothy was proud, and tough, and bouncy, and a leader ... a natural pied piper, but oh, she had a caustic wit that could cut an unwary victim to shreds. I know, because I was an unwary victim many times. Simply stated, Dorothy was one of the best human beings I have ever known, and I am proud and grateful to have known her.

I have so many memories of her, of the times we worked together, sang together, and played together in places like Provincetown, Chicago, San Francisco, San Antonio, and Pittsburgh. One of my memories is of the time Dorothy, Sheila Kirk and I traveled from Pittsburgh to Chicago for some event. (I remember Dorothy, but forget the event.) I had a boxload of tapes, and we sang along with virtually every one of them. We sang to Mozart, to Mitch Miller, to the Clancy Brothers, and to the Oak Ridge Boys. We were belting out a rousing Clancy Brothers tune when we pulled up to the Ohio/ Indiana toll booth. Paying someone money was no reason to stop singing, so Dorothy leaned out the window and got the toll collector to join us in a chorus. When we left the toll gate the collector had a huge smile on his face and kept on singing. So did we, all the way to Chicago.

I remember her at the Tiffany Club putting a bottle of beer on her forehead, lying down on her back and getting up again without touching the beer or spilling a drop. What talent. Then again, I've never seen anyone else do it ... have you?

I remember the first time she introduced Mrs. Shufflewick to our community. It was during the second Tiffany Club P-town Outing in 1982. We were having a late afternoon cocktail party in Room 314 and on the top deck of the Crown & Anchor hotel. We were minding our own business when this obviously inebriated frump crashed our party. She introduced herself as Mrs. Shufflewick from East London, and proceeded to tell us about how she came to be nude on the top of a Number Nine cross-town bus, and how she got herself trapped in an alley with her back to the wall and one foot in a mop bucket and the other in a dust bin, saying to herself, "Well Gladys, it's death, or dishonor. Well, I bleedin' well wasn't going to die tonight!" By the time she was done the people sitting on the bed laughed so hard they broke the bed, and Carol was throwing her hands in the air like there was no tomorrow, going, "I love it, I love it!" We all loved it, and Mrs. Shufflewick became a permanent member of our community.

Mrs. Gladys Shufflewick
(photo: Mariette Pathy Allen)

There are so many wonderful Auntie Dorothy stories that I can't possibly begin to share them with you. However, there are two I must share. The first one is about how Auntie Dorothy made the all-time grandest entrance to Fantasia Fair, and the second is how she gave me my single most emotional and memorable moment in this community.

Dorothy's Grand Entrance:

Provincetown, October, 1981. Fantasia Fair registration was in the Gifford House, and I was the Fair's coordinator. Dorothy, traveling as Mickey, flew via Air Canada from Vancouver to Boston, and was going to fly to P-town. However, Air Canada was late (not an unusual occurrence for Dorothy), and she missed her flight. "Not to worry," she thought, "there'd be another." Unfortunately, P-town became fog-bound (normal), and all flights were canceled. So, there was Mickey, a very distinguished little British gentleman wearing a gray suit with a Royal Navy lapel pin, with wig boxes, garment bags, and suitcases galore, stuck in Logan Airport. Not to be deterred, Mickey, with 9,000 pieces of luggage in tow, made his way to the bus, thinking it was going to P-town. It didn't. It went to Hyannis, and there were no more busses to P-town. There was Mickey, and his 9,000 pieces of luggage, stuck in Hyannis. Not to be deterred, Mickey took a cab to Route 6. He was going to hitch-hike to P-town. Seriously, he really was going to hitch-hike. So, there was this very distinguished little British gentleman with 9,000 pieces of luggage out on Route 6, hitch-hiking. The cabby didn't think that was a good idea, and called a cop. When the cop arrived he took one look at Mickey and his luggage. Obviously, this was an unusual sight, even by Cape Cod standards, and popped the question, "My God, where are you going with all that stuff?" Mickey, with a sad tear in his eye, exclaimed he had to get to P-town, and everyone left him stranded, and ... "Don't worry, we'll get you there." So, the cop called ahead to the next town, and they were met at the town line by another cop. Same thing, a look at Mickey, a look at the luggage, and the question, "My God, where are you going with all this stuff?" "Well, I have to get to P-town and I've been stranded, and ..." That cop called ahead to the next town, then the next, and the police leapfrogged Mickey and his 9,000 pieces luggage all the way to P-town. Every town, same question, "Where are you going?" Finally the P-town police met Mickey, glanced at the luggage and said, "Going to the Gifford House?"

Meanwhile, I knew Dorothy had missed her flight, and there were no more flights or busses, so I assumed she would bunk at the Tiffany Club for the evening and arrive the next day. Without giving it another thought, I went about my business, then looked out the window. No less than three police cruisers with their lights flashing had pulled up to the entrance. "Jesus, we're being raided." I ran to the door to see what the matter was, only to find Mickey marching smartly up the steps leading a parade of police carrying 9,000 pieces of luggage, saying, "Come along boys, come along!"

Dorothy, And My Single Most Emotional Moment:

Fantasia Fair, October, 1982: Frances Gibson, like Dorothy, was one of our community's treasures, someone you automatically liked. (She used to describe herself as a 5'5" ugly old man, but a 5'9" sporty old lady.) My favorite mental picture of Frances was of her sitting at the Crown & Anchor's big grand piano belting out her favorite ragtime tunes. She would sit at that piano and play for hours. She was like a barometer. When Frances was playing we knew all was right with the world. That year Frances did not play, and all was not right. The previous summer Frances had lost her best friend, and she knew that it would soon be her turn. Fan/Fair '82 was going to be her last. In fact, her only reason for being there was to say goodbye to us, and goodbye to all her friends in P-town.

Dorothy loved singing with Frances, and watching those two together it was pure entertainment and a joy to behold. They were also the best of friends, so it was a natural for them to team up to do a skit for the Fan/Fair Follies. They were going to do a few old-timey sing-alongs. The first song they planned to do was 'Rosie'. The other song they planned never happened.

Frances was well known and loved by the people of P-town. Dorothy, knowing this was to be Frances's last Fair, and knowing how the townspeople felt about her, decided to do something a little special, and without telling Frances, decided to change their skit.

On the night of the Follies, the Crown & Anchor's Back Room bar was packed with 350+ people. Betty Ann Lind was the MC, and she introduced Dorothy and Frances. Dorothy went on stage first. The lights dimmed and the crowd hushed as Dorothy, with a little added flair, introduced Frances. As Pat West, one of Frances's oldest and best friends, escorted Frances on stage, the audience, encouraged by Dorothy, stood and gave her a long and very loud ovation. It was obvious everyone knew this was going to be her last hurrah, and the people of P-town were telling Frances how they felt about her. As Frances stood quietly in the spotlight acknowledging the applause, I could see the corners of her huge infectious smile quiver, and her eyes turn moist. There was an overpowering sense of love in that room, and it was all being orchestrated by Dorothy. Finally, the cheers and the applause quieted down, and Frances sat at her piano. She then turned to the audience and with a mischievous grin said, "In the words of the late great Al Jolsen, you ain't heard nothin' yet." She then proceeded to pound out the opening bars to 'Rosie'. Then Dorothy took over.

Unbeknownst to Frances, Dorothy had copied the lyrics to 'Rosie' on a huge scroll of paper. When Frances began playing, Dorothy unrolled the lyrics, and in the same way she did the first night I met her, she began orchestrating the audience. Suddenly, everyone, including Frances, knew what was happening. Dorothy was giving the people of Provincetown a chance to say goodbye to Frances. Frances stopped playing and turned to the audience to receive her tribute. Dorothy bounced from one end of the stage to the other, arms flailing, getting people to stand up and sing with all their hearts. "Rosie, you are my posy, you are my heart's desire ..." Their singing shook the room. Frances was crying. We were all crying as we paid tribute to one of the finest people we knew in the best way we knew how -- with song.

When it was finished, one by one, we gave Frances one more warm and loving hug. Three months later Frances passed away. I have often thought about that night, and I still consider what Dorothy did for Frances to be one of the most beautiful gifts I have ever seen one person give to another.

On August 14th, when I heard that Dorothy had passed away, I thought about that gift, and began singing, quietly, to myself, "Rosie, you are my posy, you are my heart's desire..."

Dorothy, thank you for being a part of my life. I promise you, as long as I live, you will be in my memories, and in my heart.

END

=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=

as Mae West, ~1984

PERSONAL MEMORIES OF DOROTHY FINCH

By: Mariette Pathy Allen

A letter from Dorothy, July 3, 1983: "I had a big chuckle over the Mrs. Shufflewick photos. Mickey is a member of a local Canadian Legion Club. He was asked to give a 'turn' to entertain the guests at the New Year's Eve party. (No one knows anything about Dorothy, or even suspects.) Well, the M.C. was told nothing except to announce Mrs. Shufflewick. At the end of the performance, half the people still thought she was real! One member's wife, in her younger days, had been a barmaid in a London pub, has an ample figure, and quite a cockney accent. After the show was over, at least three people came up to her and congratulated her on her fine performance as Mrs. Shufflewick!"

I can picture Dorothy shaking with laughter, with a wicked gleam in her brilliant blue eyes, thrilled at the idea of having put one over on an audience that must have loved Mrs. Shufflewick . . . but never as much as those of us who know Mrs. S. as "Aunt Dorothy's" alter ego.

I met Dorothy in 1981, at the Fantasia Fair. She was magnificently coordinated: hats with veils, matching gloves and fingernails, dresses, suits, pumps that would have been admired by Queen Elizabeth. That was the "Aunt Dorothy" side of her. In the evening, grand characters would emerge: sequins, plumes, hourglass figures that strutted across the stage, holding their own with the best in the drag queen tradition. These magnificent apparitions alternated with the besotted, raggedy Mrs. Shufflewick, desperately hanging on to the remnants of her dignity (and the Number Nine Bus)!

Dorothy's sense of humor was infectious. I laughed until I cried. She was irreverent, hated pretention and pomposity, and disliked theories about anything. She was also loyal, courteous, generous, tactful, and, if I may say so, chivalrous. Dorothy and I became instant friends. Every year until she retired, she would "indulge her vanity" by having me do a series of portraits of her. I always suspected that this "indulgence" was really as much to support me, to make sure my finances were not depleted by the Fair. I Also believed that in her subtle way, Dorothy was teaching me how to photograph my new subject matter.

From a letter, January 17, 1982: "Generally, I think the photos are excellent, but more specifically: #1 The photo I should have, #2 I look a little too snooty, here, #3 I like this -- who's making snide remarks over my right shoulder?, #4 I like this, & #5 I think I must have put a tack on your chair and was waiting for you to sit on it, #6 Quite nice, but was I really desperate to go to the bathroom? . . . Less shadows probably would have improved this . . . "

In 1984, when I had my first exhibition in the gender community, I made a postcard of my favorite picture of Dorothy, which was also used for one of the press releases for the show. Dorothy's remarks, from a letter on December 16, 1983, "I notice the printed post card featuring me is black-edged. I do protest! As Mark Twain said, 'The reports of my death are greatly exagerated'! . . . I do hope the show is a great success. . . . I look forward to seeing you again soon, and in indulging my vanity once more."

Oh, Dorothy! Thank you for the pleasure you have given us, and for the subtle lessons you gave me. I wish I could "indulge your vanity" again.

[END]

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(Mary JoLynne White works as an image consultant and counselor for members of the gender community. She teaches color coordination, make-up application, and comportment. In addition, she works with individuals to help them create a better sense of balance and self-acceptance of both their masculine and their feminine energies. If you would like to find out more about her services or respond to her articles, you can reach her in Oceanside CA at 619-492-8816.)

Mary JoLynne White #8

YOUR THOUGHTS CREATE YOUR PHYSICAL REALITY

Everything around you began as a thought in someone's mind. The cars, buildings, books, meals, the clothes you wear, could not be created without someone first thinking about the end result. A clothing designer thinks of an image for a dress and then develops a plan to bring this idea into reality. Completion of the plan results in a stylish new dress. The look you put together for yourself comes from the thoughts you have about:

* What image do you want?
* Is it realistic?
* Is it affordable?
* What will other people think?
* How important is it?
* Do you think you deserve it?
* How confident do you feel?

Your thoughts about yourself and the world around you have special significance. You have the ability to create in physical reality much more than you may think! Each thought created in the mind influences the body, physiologically and emotionally. Imagine cutting a lemon in half. The juices begin to flow. Picture taking one of these halves and sucking on it. Think about the taste and how sour it is. The very thought of doing this affects your salivary glands.

Recall a time in your life when you felt really happy. Perhaps it was with someone you loved, or doing something you loved. How does it feel remembering? See if you can remember someone or something making you quite angry or very sad. How do you feel? Now, go back to the initial memory that made you feel happy. Notice the change in your emotions? This illustrates how your thoughts create your emotions. Change your thoughts and you change your emotions. If you're not experiencing happiness in all areas of your life, you can change that through your thoughts.

Besides affecting the body, your thoughts also manifest situations and circumstances in your life. Whatever you feel deeply about or imagine in your mind will be created. Like magnets, your thoughts draw to you whatever it is you focus on in your life. Remember the old adage, "Whatever you fear the most will come true"? If you place your attention on your fears, you will attract that very situation into your life. You are telling the universe what's important to you. Because it wants to give you what you ask for, it responds accordingly. Then you wring your hands and ask, "Why Me?"

My biggest fears centered around finances. Like many of my friends, I was brought up to believe in scarcity thinking, "There isn't enough." It took me awhile before I realized this was not true. There is plenty for each and every one of us if we're willing to believe we deserve it. In my fearfulness, I focused on not having enough money to pay the bills. My financial problems continued. When I realized the importance of my thoughts, I began to change my thinking. Each time a fear appeared concerning money, I turned it into a gratitude, being grateful for what I did have. I focused on what I wanted instead of what I didn't have in my life. Whatever you focus on, you get in life, for energy follows thought. The more I love having money and abundance, the more I draw it to me.

You may not realize many of your thoughts lie in your subconsciousness. They represent core beliefs about yourself and you may not even know they exist. The subconscious mind doesn't use judgment or discernment. It simply takes in the thought and helps create the situation. The universe has been organized to give you exactly what you want. If you have a core belief about yourself that does not affirm the positive

aspects of who you are, you may experience difficulties in getting what you want out of life. For example, you may want to have a close, loving, relationship with a person who accepts your crossdressing. Someone who understands it represents a part of you. At the same time, you believe you're not really worth loving. You don't fit into the norm. What woman, in her right mind, would really accept you and your desire to dress. If this represents your underlying thoughts, you probably won't find that type of relationship. Your thoughts will create just the opposite of what you think you want. You will meet women who don't understand or accept you.

Do you have a negative pattern in your life that keeps repeating itself? Do you keep having the same problems in relationships, or at work? Do you have a physical problem that keeps coming up? If so, you might want to look for the thoughts or beliefs that create those patterns and situations so that you can change those thoughts and beliefs. Beliefs and expectations act as powerful agents affecting your health. You can actualize whatever you desire!

If the mind can create health, wealth, and happiness, why doesn't more of it exist? If we are given the choice between joy and sorrow, you'd think the choice for joy would be obvious. It isn't. Negative thoughts are often adopted over positive ones for two simple reasons. One, a deep-seated core belief exists about personal unworthiness. Two, we are ignorant of our core beliefs. You may not think you can change your reality by changing your thoughts.

The feeling of unworthiness acts like a voice in your head telling you you're not good enough. It kills the spontaneity and the joy available to you. If something positive happens, such as getting a better job, the voice begins, "Sure, you got the job, but it's probably too difficult. You'll probably screw it up and land in the streets without a job." This is the very same voice that tells you it's not possible to be truly happy. Perhaps
you're in a new relationship and things are going well. You share experiences together, opening up, becoming more intimate. The voice speaks up. "Better be careful! . . . Don't get too close or you'll get hurt. . . . You always get hurt when this happens." This voice means well. It developed as a means to protect you when you were younger. Unfortunately, it does not have your best interests at heart. It keeps you from hearing and seeing the truth about your value as a human being. It scares you into thinking life can't get any better, that this is all there is. The truth is, there's no limit to how good your life can get!

Your unconscious thoughts about yourself develop when you're very young. Imagine a young child, about the age of two, playing in his room. As long as he's not getting into any trouble, the adults may let him play without much interaction. As soon as he throws something or begins to explore the wall with a crayon, he is told, "NO!" That's a common response for most parents. That's how they were taught by their parents. They give the child attention when he is doing something they don't like. "Don't! Stop! No!" are the words the child hears. Parents unknowingly neglect to tell him about all the good, positive things they see him doing. Think about it. How were you treated as a young child. Were you praised and told how special you were without any special occasion happening? Did you grow up feeling appreciated, accepted, and loved, no matter what? Over a period of time, a child unconsciously remembers how many times he was told he was good versus the number he was told he wasn't so good. The negatives outweigh the positives. Because a child doesn't have any other frame of reference about himself, he begins to believe he's bad, unworthy, and not worth loving. This is fertile ground for negative thinking.

The mind, then, acts like a strainer. It filters out the positive, keeping the negative thoughts in your awareness. You tend, therefore, to focus on negativity. This, in turn, brings more of the same into your life. Then you think to yourself, "See, I was right. Life is difficult. Women can't be trusted! I'll never be able to pass in public." The voice in your head speaks frequently and loudly. You assume it to be true.

Imagine seeing two young saplings growing side by side. One plant is nourished by positive thought, and the other by negative thought. Every time you listen to and believe the negative voice in your head, you nourish the tree of negativity, making it that much stronger, while the tree of positivity remains thin and weak. You feed one of these two trees every time you think a thought. Which one will you feed?

Feelings of unworthiness lead to judgment, resentment, and fear. These in turn, create anxiety, tension, anger, depression and fatigue. Is this what you want to create or continue to experience in your life? Living on this treadmill keeps you from knowing, feeling, and experiencing who you really are. Whatever you look for, you find. You cannot afford to continue thinking negatively. It drags you down emotionally, mentally and physically. It fails to nourish you spiritually.

When you start to become more aware of your thoughts, try not to judge the negative voices. Judging anything about yourself gives it that much more power. It impedes the healing process of learning greater self-acceptance. The doubtful voice represents a part of you asking for help. It needs to be shown new images and beliefs. Whenever a negative thought appears, acknowledge it. Then, listen to the small voice of truth, which speaks from your heart.

The good news is that you choose your thoughts. You can stop the negative thinking you have about yourself. Guilt and self-loathing can be replaced with acceptance, compassion, and love. The way out of fear and pain is to acknowledge what it is you want to have in your life. Focus on those thoughts. You do not have to continue to experience the pain and frustrations. You can get off the treadmill and bring more joy into your life. There is a choice. Positive thoughts create positive results!

TAPESTRY MAILBAG

Response to Holly's editorial in #58

Dear Editor:

I liked the ideas set forth by Holly in her article "The Transgender Alternative" in issue #58 of the Tapestry with one major exception. From the heart of my spiritual connections, and in my expanding knowledge of balancing the dynamic tensions of my Androgyne suchness, and from my own experiences and observations, I know that there is no imposition from without such as Holly alleges. Specifically, she says, "It is our culture that imposes the polarization of gender according to biology. It is our culture that has brainwashed us, our families, and our friends." Not so.

I will concede that our culture seemingly attempts to do these things. However, it is the individual's right to accept or reject these subjective interpretations. The easy way to abdicate responsibility for one's life is to place that responsibility outside oneself. It is a simple solution. Therein lies the inherent failure: simple solutions are usually the wrong solutions -- they become dissolutions. (Every problem contains the seeds of its solution. The simple solution is often the wrong path.)

It is not our culture we are at odds with, it is ourselves -- out interpretations. Anyone believing that their culture has brainwashed them fails to realize that the belief comes from within. Such a belief in the without is a locked closet. Perhaps the smallest, tightest closet one can experience.

I have been in that closet. I will find myself in that closet (or one like it) again and again. I will also continue to open door after door because I can find the key, turn the lock, and step outside.

Many times I felt as though I had been locked in, as if someone or something had pushed me in, slammed the door, and taken away the key. I have fumbled around in the darkness, feeling for the door, the doorknob, but there was no door, no doorknob. I have cried in that lonely darkness many times. In my loneliness, I discovered the power of my imagination. In my darkness, I discovered the power of my vision. In my closets, I have discovered my freedom. With my eyes closed, I have opened my inner eye.

It was never "they" who locked "me" inside. It was "I" who locked "me" inside. Those doors were never locked from the outside.

Once upon a time I woke up and thought I was in a coffin, buried alive. I refused to believe it. I let my imagination loose, opened my inner eye, and in the dim light I saw the door materialize. I reached for where the doorknob should be, while trusting the power of my imagination to move it to the inside. My hand closed around the knob. It turned easily. I opened the door and stepped out. I found myself in a small room, one closed door in front of me, one open door behind me. I chose the closed door, rather than going back. There was no handle on the closed door, so I created one and opened it. I found myself in a hallway with a few people moving about, opening and closing doors to the unknown. I stepped into the flow, and my feet found a faint path. I tried a few of the doors, pretending that I knew where I was going. Behind most of these doors, I found unknown rooms, more doors, more closets, more people, more spirits, knowledge, pain, joy, and my freedom to explore, to define, and to be myself.

Since then, I have lost much rigidity and gained much flexibility. I have seen the ever-flowing river of truth. I have felt my molecules dancing in harmony with the universe. I have come to know when I'm on my path, when I've strayed, and how to get back on my path. I have also learned how to delight in my confusion.

These, then, are the reasons I believe in the power of the way within. This is why the ceaseless rise and fall of "the ten thousand things" without are just a diversion.

I loved your piece, Holly. Your spirit shines through. And you see that we, individually, are the makers of our own culture (and therefore of our own "society").

Let it be so.

And for my siblings who believe that society dictates their imprisonment: As it was, as it is, and as it ever shall be -- this is an illusion. Cast off those shackles and become all you can be. Leave the darkness and shine brightly. Cry the simultaneous tears of ignorance and of joy. Believe in yourself. Only you have the key!

Luv,
Billie Jean Jones, Editor and Publisher
TV Guise
3430 Balmoral Drive #10
Sacramento, CA 95821

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More on Prison and Prisoners

Dear Editor:

I've been in prison for nearly thirty years. All my medical records are lost. I must now reconstruct my medical-legal files. I need all data possible on my illness: Gender Dysphoria Syndrome. I'm fighting desperately in my loneliness, for the right to LIFE as a complete woman . . . and freedom.

During ILGA's Ninth Annual Conference in Cologne, West Germany (June, 1987), I was represented by Peter Wingquist (Stockholm, Sweden), and an associate. The Gay Task Force at Ponsonby, Auckland, New Zealand adopted me for a year. I received letters of support from people throughout the world.

Then, my life was turned over to Amnesty International. Now, I've no one out there. Help me. I hurt. Please hear and honor my heart and soul plea to you. I truly can't go on much longer. I was twenty-one years old when I was put in this despicable male prison, and I will be forty-eight years old on the twenty-third of July.

Please, I beg you to help me in any and every way you can.

Sincerely,
Ms. Melissa Lynn Allen
c/o Gary Allen
Duchesne County Jail
Drawer M
Duchesne, Utah 84021

What follows are excerpts from newspaper clippings that Ms. Allen sent in with her letter.

From a December 13, 1987 article in a Florida paper, describing Ms. Allen's desire to have sex-reassignment surgery:

> *The frustration, abuse and ridicule he has suffered since childhood as half male, half female, led him to alcoholism and theft . . . Allen said he lives in constant fear at the prison. He is also angry and hostile -- partly because of the men in various prisons and jails across the country have raped and abused him (sic) . . . For much of the last twenty-five years, Allen has been in and out of various prisons, on charges including theft, trafficking in stolen goods, and escape.*

From December 22, 1987:

> *A male prison inmate seeking to have his name changed to Melissa Lynn Allen argued in court Monday that the change is vital to his mental well-being because he is really a woman in a man's body. . . .*
>
> *But a lawyer for the state argued that the man the state prison system knows as Mario LaTessa . . . could misuse the female name. . . .*
>
> *The new name might help him to befuddle prison and law enforcement agencies and their computers. That might help him evade them after a possible escape or if he were sought for new violations . . .*
>
> *After his release, LaTessa will likely have to serve time in a federal prison on a previous escape charge . . .*
>
> *[The District Attorney] added that she sympathized with LaTessa, but "we just don't have the capacity to meet his emotional needs."*

From December 22, 1987:

> *In addition, [the District Attorney] said, LaTessa has escaped from prison before and a new, legal name will increase the likelihood of a successful escape. . . .*
>
> *Corrections officials have asked that LaTessa stop receiving mail under the name "Melissa Allen." . . .*
>
> *LaTessa described that request as the "promise and threat of punitive action if I don't stop being me." . . .*
>
> *"There was no intent to punish," [The D.A.] said. "Just to maintain the integrity of our security system." . . .*
>
> *LaTessa, who is serving a ten-year sentence for trafficking in stolen property . . . is scheduled for release from Florida's prison system . . . and has a federal sentence to serve. . . .*
>
> *[LaTessa] denied that he is an escape risk; he said he escaped from prison in North Carolina to avoid further rapes.*

Response to Joan's Letter in #58

Dear Editor:

Wow! Now, there's a shining example of sisterly unity within the gender community! A TS inmate embittered by her unfortunate lot in life calls our attention to the plight of herself and others in her position and suggests how to make things better for all of us and simply because she IS an inmate, she gets pigeonholed and has ascribed to her the title of being among the most selfish, immoral people in our society, along with such behavior as mugging old ladies to take their retirement checks, rolling drunks, holding up mom-and-pop grocery stores, extortion, etc. Now, that's really keeping an "open mind!"

Since when did this rat-race world suddenly become so egalitarian and just that it can be assumed that the only people in prison are the ones who actually deserve to be there? And how can you or any of the rest of us possibly know what motto Lofofora and her cell-mates live by, since she didn't even mention it? There's a word that describes this practice, it's called PREJUDICE, pure and simple. I don't recall Lofofora showing us any of that, but you certainly showed us all what you are made of! And isn't it ironic that you are ascribing categories and attributes to people sight unseen exactly the same way U.S. Senators William Armstrong, Orren Hatch, and Jesse Helms did when all the rest of us in the "gender" community were not only voted out of existence, but also pigeonholed with pedophiles, drug addicts, exhibitionists, voyeurs, kleptomaniacs, pyromaniacs, and compulsive gamblers by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1989! Too bad some people never seem to learn!

Not being TS by your own admission, how could you possibly understand, much less appreciate just what's involved with this kind of gender dysphoria? How can you possibly know what it's like to lose a well-paying career of many years along with family, those you thought were your friends, your self-esteem, and, almost, your life . . . just because you happened to enter this world with a birth defect, and because you dared to do something about it, and became stigmatized and victimized by a narrow-minded society showing the same kind of self-righteous and "holier than thou" arrogance that you have shown? I have, and that's why The Sunday Society was founded . . . to support, NOT TO JUDGE according to their social status or material wealth, those who need help! That should be among the goals of all support groups . . . which also means not denying access to various national gender community events to those who aren't "well off" enough to afford them! So many times, our members, as well as myself wished we could attend the various yearly conventions only to be stopped

cold by the outrageous costs that none of us could even begin to afford. That's why when The Sunday Society should grow to the point where we can actually have a national convention of our own, it will be in a Park District fieldhouse if need be, but by gosh, we'll make damn sure that NOBODY GETS LEFT OUT! and that's one of OUR mottos!

As for compassion, how can you say that no amount of it will ever satisfy the inmates of this world, not having demonstrated any yourself? In a way, we are all "inmates" of this world in one kind of prison or another. Lofofora's prison is more superficially obvious, complete with bars, concrete walls, goon towers, barbed wire, and alarms, but for the rest of us on the "outside", there are still laws, beliefs, morals, and the mannerisms of "mainstream" society that more or less imprison us in one way or another. And, of course, the "tunnel vision" of narrowmindedness is a self-imposed prison that keeps us from the truth even though THE TRUTH WILL SET US FREE! Yes, some of us do indeed get less of a chance in this world than others, and it always seems so easy for the HAVEs to bash the HAVE NOTs and kick them while they're down, but just remember . . . THERE BUT FOR FORTUNE GO YOU AND I!

Response to Lofofora's Letter in #57

To Lofofora,

Although I've never met you and may not necessarily agree with what you may have done to result in your being incarcerated, I am nonetheless compassionate towards the needs of our sisters in prison, as is the rest of our group. Please don't feel that nobody out there cares about you and others in your unfortunate situation. I read your message in Tapestry #57 and I personally wholeheartedly agree with every single word of it. It's something I and many others have been saying for a long time, and it happens to be the very reason why our group exists . . . to be "In Service to the Transsexual Community" . . . all of the community, not only those who put themselves in "little boxes made of Ticky Tacky, and they all look just the same"! Not everyone in the "gender" community has such a low opinion of you as was expressed in the letter in issue #58. Some of us even love you and care about you as the sister that you are to us. I certainly do! We would also like to help you out in any way we are able to as well as learn more about and make more contacts with TS people in prison so that we may improve our outreach efforts in that area. Just drop a note to us.

The very best of luck to you !

Yours in Sisterhood,
Louise Raeder
The Sunday Society
P O Box 478850
Chicago IL 60647

Response to Joan's Letter in #58

Dear Editor:

Joan Hoff's assessment of Lofofora C. is rather accurate, but does not go far enough. In reality, Lofofora is a sociopath. Whether because of the many difficulties in transitioning to TS life, or not, her problems may have resulted in antisocial and criminal behaviors, resulting in incarceration.

Lofofora is a blackhole in modern terminology. Joan Hoff points out that with Lofofora, it is always the gimme, never the give. Everything from emotions (yours) to money (yours) will be sucked down a "blackhole". In earlier times, a reference would be made to a water whirlpool. The effect is similar. The donor(s) of time and energy get sucked or worn down to blackhole status themselves.

Lofofora is, in Joan's thinking but not wording, of the spiritual darkness. Again, it's the blackhole, translated into the theological realm.

But the real problem is that there are a lot of Lofoforas out there, and they haven't been caught.

Love,
Rhonda, Sharon MA

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Remember When?

Dear Editor:

How many times have you heard this appeal: "I need your help!"? I suspect your mail is top-heavy with such plaintive cries. But, no matter how familiar these entreaties, they are all anguishingly individual. All of us who write you are stranded somewhere between misplaced realities; between a fact not of our choosing, and a fancy not of our grasp.

In my case, I have resisted asking for such help for most of my fifty-four years. It's the old story: confusion, embarrassment, shame, denial, resolve to overcome, fear to face, purge, self-doubt, repression, cowardice. I'm talking about transsexualism. Not transvestism, although for a long time,I thought it was that -- really, in a way, hoped it was that. But, it wasn't, and I knew from the start that it wasn't. Transvestism is "simpler," more manageable. It can be isolated, more easily hidden, or more innocently indulged. And the three women who knew about this dressing up stuff of mine needed to think it was only skin deep, that I didn't really want to change my sex. And so did I. And so we gingerly and unsatisfyingly toyed with the phenomenon, until I watched it come between us, and then I buried it again -- and again. I never really felt free to dress, not just because of my former wife and girl friends, but because I knew that dressing up wasn't at the heart of my desire. I wanted to be a woman, and would have gladly worn jeans and a t-shirt if I were one. Wearing dresses as a male, while closer to my inner reality, wasn't enough of my physical reality to enliven my fantasies for very long.

And so on and so forth . . . I'm sure you've felt most of this yourselves and heard the rest of it many times before. The question is: Do you have any information, publications, contacts, and specific advice that might help me live with this woman inside? For the record : I'm about 6 feet tall, 140 pounds, gray-haired, but relatively youthful -- intellectually, and to some degree physically. For nearly thirty years I have read widely and deeply about transsexualism and transvestism, but during my periodic panics have purged my entire library on the subject. The same is true of my wardrobe and wigs, although I recently purchased a complete makeup kit, but haven't used it because I'm still groping for the insight, or the resolve to face what I'm really up to.

I am also seeing a Jungian therapist weekly, and have been doing so

for about two years. I initially went to her about one issue, which eventually and inevitably led to another issue, and then another, until they all seemed to boil down to something basic. We have been discussing my transsexual feelings for only about two months. She's not quite sold on my claims of being a woman inside. She thinks it has more to do with my anima than with my anatomy. I assure her that my feelings of transsexualism and/or transvestism go back to when I was eight or nine, and even in some degree before that. She thinks that as an infant I was overwhelmed by females and underwhelmed by males, and that the male side of me never got snugly attached to my psyche. I like and respect her, and am trying to keep an open mind, but my desire to be a woman, my identity with women, my preference for female life, and my indifference to male life continue to grow. But then that, all by itself, does not automatically lead to surgery.

One other thing: My fourteen-year romantic relationship with a woman recently ended because she wanted a more active sex life than I could -- or felt disposed -- to provide, at least as a male. Before that, I had been married for seven years, with about the same amount of sexual languor.

That, in a nutshell, is my situation. Is there anything you can say or do that might be helpful? If so, I invite you to say or do it.

I learned about you , by the way, three years ago from the August, 1988 Boston Globe interview with Yvonne Cook and Merissa Lynn. That was a tiny part of my special library I did not purge. Today, I checked the Waltham phone book in the New Haven library and tracked down your address.

If there are subscription and mailing costs, or whatever, of course I will be happy to pay them.

Thanks for what I hope will be your early reply.

Sincerely,
Vanessa, New Haven CT

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GIC's Contribution to the Denver Foundation

Dear Editor:

I just read that the Gender Identity Center, a TV/TS support group in Denver, Colorado, gave the Denver Foundation, a nonprofit foundation that funds worthwhile causes, a contribution of $1200, money the GIC had raised through their own efforts. What a wonderful thing to do! This generous gesture may have done more for our cause than we know.

We say we want acceptance of the gender community by the larger community out there. How do we go about this? We could protest and make demands. If our numbers were great enough, we might get some recognition of our rights, rights that are already guaranteed by the Constitution. But, what could be better than to become known as benefactors of the community?

I had a dream last night. I dreamt that each TV/TS support group, and each outreach group started working independently for worthwhile causes in their respective communities. Slowly, the general public became aware of these efforts to help others. Gradually, we became able to influence larger groups like the IFGE, and get them to do something for others outside the gender community on a nationwide basis.

In my dream, the general public became more accepting of us because we were the organizations helping them. We were supporting their charities with help, work, and money. In my dream, the local Tri-Ess chapter had a clothing sale to raise money for a highway cleanup program. Best of all, each year on, say, Dr. Virginia Prince's birthday, all the support groups all over the world would donate the thousands of dollars raised to the local children's hospitals. How could a society not accept all those TV/TS's who had done so much? Great dream, right?

Now that I am awake, I wonder how much good we could do for society. Although I joined the Gender Identity Center in Denver too late to take part in this fundraising project, you can bet I am proud to be part of such a group. Maybe pride is a good place to start.

Remember how each city has a sign at its borders listing various clubs and organizations? Many had animal names like Elks, Moose, or Lions. It seems that these groups play a noble and a worthy role. One such group launched a campaign to eliminate polio, and is very proud of its success.

My question is, if we looked outside ourselves just a little more, in time might there be a sign at the city limits naming the local Tri-Ess chapter?

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I hope it was as thought provoking for you to read it as it was for me to write it.

Sincerely,
Donna T., Arvada, CA

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On Blossom Paster

Dear Editor:

Through you I have discovered an oasis. You have a listing for BLOSSOM PASTER, in Wesley Chapel, FL (outside Tampa). I agonized over contacting her for several years. Then one day, out of the blue, I got the courage to call her. This started an experience that I shall never come down from. Everyone should know her!

When I called, I was a nervous wreck. After two phone calls we made an appointment. OK, first step accomplished. When I arrived in Orlando, I called and she gave directions to her house that a five-year-old could have followed. I arrived at there with every bit of my body not only covered with sweat, but shaking as well. When I rang the bell, my first thought was, get out before anything happens. Well, friends, this is what happened.

A stunning woman, silver hair on a young face, greeted me warmly. I don't remember what was said as my ears were buzzing and I couldn't hear. She got me into the house and into the room she was going to do the make-up in. Everything was ready. There was make-up, powder, brushes, . . . everywhere.

Let me say this. I was forty-three years old, and had never known until I read my first Tapestry that there was anyone else in the world who had the inclinations I had. I had felt like a freak all of my adult life. So, here I am in Florida with a woman I don't know telling her all about my dark secret. Well, here's how my life changed. I had met the most knowledgeable, warm, caring person I had ever met. We had a three-hour session during which we talked and, I still can't believe it, laughed. Really! It was a magical time.

When our session was over, she could have asked for anything I had. Her honesty was refreshing. I was made comfortable. She made me feel like a real person. She talked to me as if I were an intelligent human being, not some kind of freak from a sideshow.

As I write this, I am trembling, but not as the nervous wreck I was before. I am trembling with joy and pleasure to share this with all of you. I have promised myself that I will see Blossom Paster at least once a year, no matter how hard it is for me to get to Florida. I don't as yet have a Post Office box, so I will just sign myself as my girl self, with the name that Blossom helped me to pick,

Love,
Sharon P.

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Spouse's Feelings About Spouse's Feelings

Dear Editor,

One of the things I hear over and over again from wives is the fear of losing your mate through his involvement with transsexualism or his desire to take female hormones. In the case of hormones, the majority of transgendered males that take female hormones take them for six months or less. They are frightened by the changes their bodies go through, and this causes them to reassess their decision. The same is generally the case with transsexual feelings, These feelings are yearnings the crossdresser goes through which may last for a shorter or longer period.

I can share my own experiences with you and assure you that in most cases, the love the average crossdresser feels for his wife is so strong it makes the desire for these things wane in time. My husband had a problem concerning his transsexual feelings. However, since we had no support group in those days, and no one to turn to but each other, it took ten years for us to work our way through it. This is only one of the reasons I feel support groups are so necessary to couples in this situation. One of the things I had to point out to him repeatedly was, "You cannot BE a woman. You can LOOK like a woman, which you do when you dress. Medical science can't do any more for you than a cosmetic change in your body which will make it appear female. No one has the right to look under your skirt to see if you are male or female. You are a unique individual. Why make the medical doctors make you appear physically like half the population (assuming that is roughly the gender mix), when you are that unique blend of both genders? Believe me, it is more rewarding to be able to be in either gender you want, when you want. And, after all, this is the way you were born!" Even as confused and upset as he was at that time, he was able to see the logic in this. With a lot of talking and love, we worked through this time in our lives.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Phillips
Wives Associated with Crossdressers
P O Box 17
Bulverde TX 78163

P.S. We printed the following 'Outline For Happiness' in our newsletter. It works!

"OUTLINE FOR HAPPINESS"

Respect: Respect me as your friend, confidant, and life partner. Likewise, please respect yourself accordingly.

Communication: We must communicate with each other. We need to tell each other our innermost thoughts, desires, and plans. If I upset you, talk to me about it. Remember, anything is possible through communication.

Care: Care for me as I care for you. Make me a part of your life, and I will do the same for you.

Recognition: Recognize that everyone has a right to pursue whatever happiness they desire, as long as no one is bothered by these desires. Recognize, too, that we are a product of out social structuring, and are sometimes unwilling victims of physical and mental situations which we were born with, and which are sometimes beyond our control.

If you will notice, the word "love" is omitted from this outline. Unfortunately, we have overused the "L" word so much it has become meaningless to a lot of us. "If you loved me, you would stop dressing." . . . "If you loved me, you would permit me to dress." Neither statement is logical or practical. Until we stop using the word "love" as a weapon to bash the other person with, we just need to stop using it. Besides, who would you rather spend your life with, a "lover," or a "friend?"

Remember, most crossdressers go through these feelings at one time or another. Unfortunately, it becomes our problem, too. When he goes through this, it can ruin a relationship, along with lives, if you don't know how to deal with it.

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An Open Letter to my Spouse, Children, Family, and Friends

by Jesse

Reprinted from the Gender Identity Center Newsletter, July, 1991, 3715 West 32nd Avenue, Denver CO 80211.

Remember me? I am that person you loved so deeply. I am that person you thought was talented, intelligent, loving, exciting, companionable, a good citizen, a hard worker, honest, dependable, moral, God-fearing, an asset to you, possessed of a wonderful sense of humor, a survivor, who never deserted you, cooked great meals, cared for you in sickness, cared for you in health, for the simple reason that I loved you deeply.

Remember me? Look past the outer appearance and see into my eyes. Do you see me now? I am here, still

loving you, still caring for you.

What do I want from you?

I do not want to be your ever-ready excuse for all that goes wrong in your life. I do not want to be the object of all your jokes at work, and at parties, or wherever you decide to take out your vengeance. I do not want to be accused of doing all that is immoral or illegal.

What do I want?

I want the chance to work, to achieve my goals, and to live life to the fullest. I cannot force your love, but I can ask that you at least try to accept me as I am. Please understand that for the first time in my life, I can return my gaze in the mirror. I can hear my name without my stomach retching on a name that didn't fit my inner gender. Please use my chosen name properly. It means so little to you and so much to me.

I can ask for your forgiveness if I have hurt you. It was not my intention to embarrass you, to harm you, to cheat you of a perfect life, or to be a failure in your eyes. Do you remember me yet? I am your lover, your parent, your child, and your companion. Do you see me yet? Do not look with your eyes, look with your heart and see into my soul. I am still here -- loving caring, and accepting you.

Just reach out and I am here.

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Nothing Succeeds Like Success?

Dear Editor,

Well, the boss was gone for a week and Linda was bored. I had cleaned the house, washed some clothes, and dome all the little household chores I am supposed to do, but now I wanted some R & R.

What does a cross-dresser do when she wants to go out and dance, have a drink, and generally enjoy herself some evening? I do not like gay male bars. It's dangerous, and I like to look at and talk to women, not guys. (I have spent most of a lifetime talking to guys, and I'm still not impressed. I have always been amazed to find any of us that would want to go in a male gay bar. If you're gay, great, however . . .)

Now, we have in our fair city a really good "women's bar" as they call lesbian bars nowadays. In case you haven't been there, it's called the Circle.

"Understated" is the key word in dressing to go to a lesbian bar. Most of the folks do not wear ANY makeup at all. Those of you who know Linda, know that going out of the house without makeup on is courting immediate seizure by the "gender police." So, I put on as little makeup as the time of day (still light out) would allow (one of the important results of electrolysis), pants (ugh!) and a T-shirt (pun intended), over my newly developed "body by estrogen." (After wanting to have to wear a bra for forty years, I found out why women who don't have to wear them don't.) I did not carry a purse (in certain groups they are considered "sissy", gang!), and I wore (ugh, again!) flats. There! Great! I could fool anyone. I look like a fairly elderly bull dyke. No one will suspect I am really a guy.

Things were going good until the really great looking female bartender asked for my drink order with a, "What'll you have, Sir?" Hmmmm . . . well, gosh, it could happen to anyone. Maybe some of these women like to be called "Sir." Yeah, that's it! She thinks I'm an aggressive female and want to be called "Sir." Motioning her over, I pointedly looked at her tip jar and said, "Cut me a little slack on the Sir, OK?" Her affirmative reply was delivered with less than convincing enthusiasm. Her forthcoming tip was also less than enthusiastic.

After absorbing that initial shock, I sat nursing my glass of white wine (an appropriate drink, I felt, chosen as a bit more cosmopolitan than my first and somewhat frivolous, but none the less feminine choice, a Dr. Pepper cooler) looking down at my proudest possessions, my very own B-cup breasts. "Gosh, I wonder how she read me? I always thought no one could read you if you had REAL breasts!"

The next disaster was almost immediate. Two really knocked out young women came over to where I was and sat down on either side of me. Oh, boy, my favorite position, between two good looking females! "Hi!" the best looking one had spoken first. "Hi!" I smiled back with a smile that had broken many female hearts in my younger, more male days. "Are you a guy or a girl?" No sympathy. No respect for an old person's feelings. No tact. Just a slam, bang! Just like that.

I summoned what little dignity I had left. "That depends on your definition of 'guy.' I am a gender female with male genitals, or what you might call a she-male."

"A guy, then, right?"

"Uh, well, you could say that. I do have equipment that requires no batteries. I'm rechargeable."

"How come you got Boobs?"

"Uh, well, because I like them. You might call me a late bloomer."

"That's cool," chimed in the other girl. "Let's dance!"

After a dance (a FAST dance), during which I won my only accolade, "You dance good, for a guy!" I quizzed my two critics.

"How did you know I was a guy?"

"Gee, I don't know. It's kind of, well, you know, it's just that you're TOO feminine! None of US walk, or act, or wear makeup like that."

Oh, fine! Just, fine! I spend years working on my femininity, I go to a voice coach, I sit through hours of painful electrolysis, I take hormones until they come out my ears, which are pierced, I have a closet full of expensive clothes, a dozen wigs, I have passed in almost every conceivable circumstance, AND here I sit with a couple of beautiful lesbians telling me I'm TOO feminine!

If you need me before the next CD meeting, I'll be down at the junkyard. There's a few cars I need to cut up!

It's all true, I swear!

Linda, Bulverde TX

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Dear Editor:

I found your magazine while in the middle of a dying marriage. I've survived the divorce, and I am now enjoying what all TV's dream of, a completely open and accepting relationship.

My new S.O. loves both Steve and Stephanie. What more could I ask? To those still looking for a relationship like mine, DON'T GIVE UP!! There are some wonderful people out there, you just have to look hard.

Love to all,
Stephanie D., Greensboro NC

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Dear Editor:

Hi! My name is Tina. I'm a friend of a cross-dresser, so I read your magazine regularly. I love reading the letters and seeing the pictures of the people who write them. It shows me that they are real people with real dreams, problems, and accomplishments. They are different, but they are people, too, and some are very special, such as my friend, Donna.

Donna is a fascinating person who listens to my problems and can sympathize with me. I love to help her when I can. I remember going to the wig shop to find the right wig for her. We walked right in and found the color we wanted along with the style. The sales lady brought it out, and I told him to sit down in the chair, looked at her and said, "This is for him." She put the wig on him and treated us like anyone else.

I think Donna has a lot of courage and savvy, and I am finding out that it is rubbing off on me. She has taught me a lot of things, but the most important thing I have learned from her is, No matter how different someone is, you can find something special in them. So, I tell her to be all that she can be, and being herself is doing just that.

She is looking more and more like a female, and doing a good job of being one. Donna has never been read, but if she were, you won't find me ashamed to be seen with her. In fact, I want to be there for her if such a thing should happen, because being by yourself is a terrible thing to be, but being a cross-dresser is just simply being. I think we can all learn something from each other, we just have to want to learn.

I hope when she reads this, she will realize how beautiful she really is. Thanks, Donna, for being my friend!

Yours truly,
Tina L., Arvada CO

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Response to Kay Gould's Editorial in #57

Dear Editor:

I've always had two problems with Tapestry and with the movement in general. I thought after reading Issue #57 that it was time I got them off my chest.

For one thing, I feel somewhat uneasy about the cozy atmosphere that has developed between the IFGE and the psychiatric profession. On the one hand, I recognize that many members of our community - particularly those who are going for sex reassignment surgery - need the services of the psychiatrists to get where they're going. On the other hand, I have a deep distrust of the profession based on the ignorance its members have demonstrated towards transvestism since they first discovered it needed to be analyzed. In fact, I'm still waiting for an apology for the eighty odd years the majority opinion maintained that all cross-dressers were gay, or that the only reason we wore these clothes was for sexual gratification. How many people did psychiatrists "help" with that misinformation?

I recognize that the profession has changed, but the fact remains that psychiatrists, no matter how knowledgeable, will never know what it means to be a cross-dresser. Consequently, I am dismayed that you give the psychiatric profession free reign to define us, and am disturbed to see the alacrity with which many people in our community accept their conclusions. When I read Tapestry, it seems to me that it is the psychiatrists who are influencing us on how we should see ourselves, and not the other way around.

For example, I am aghast at the enthusiasm with which our community seems to have adopted the term "gender dysphoria." While this may seem apt for a transsexual, the term has become widely used to describe anyone in our community. As a cross-dresser, I don't believe it describes me at all. In fact, "gender dysphoria" is a very loaded term which merely reinforces our position outside of society without questioning the basis upon which society makes its decisions about gender. I have no problems with my gender. It's the narrow boxes that society has put my gender in that I strongly object to. It all depends on which way you look at it. I am quite happy expressing my femininity, and I am not ashamed that I am a male doing so.

This position is outside what I call orthodox transvestism. It's a feminist position because it recognizes that everyone has so-called masculine and feminine qualities in varying degrees, and they should be free to express those aspects of their personality. Orthodox transvestism, on the other hand, suggests that the only way we can express our feminine nature is to dress and act as women. It can be astonishingly sexist, because it stereotypes women, and then presumes that the correct way to be a cross-dresser is to follow this narrow definition. Which leads me to my second point.

In Kay Gould's editorial in Tapestry #57, she writes, " . . . we need to concentrate very heavily on doing away with, or eliminating, inappropriate masculine traits, masculine behavior, masculine attitudes, and masculine modes of every form whenever we assume the feminine role." The first question that comes to mind is, Why? Why is it necessary to make ourselves over into something we may not want to be? The reason, according to Ms Gould, is so we won't be seen as " . . . just a bunch of men in dresses." Oh, dear! What a catastrophe! Presumably it's far better to have "gender dysphoria" than to be a man in a dress.

I have no problems being a man in a dress, and I'm offended that Ms Gould has set herself up as not only an arbiter of taste for cross-dressers, but, by extension, an arbiter of what is proper behavior for women also. Many women have masculine qualities. I reckon Ms Gould doesn't think

much of loud, aggressive women who don't wear makeup. Too bad! There are many women who aren't too impressed with men who have fairy princess fantasies and then walk around proclaiming themselves to women. It shouldn't be too difficult to figure out why the women's movement hasn't warmed up to a community that insults them in this way. It embarrasses me.

Concerning the cross-dressers who appeared on nationally televised talk shows, Ms Gould writes, "[I]t is every CD's obligation to not contradict what they have just said." I wasn't aware that to be a cross-dresser you had to submit to totalitarian principles. Excuse me, but I do contradict what they say. I'm a cross-dresser and no one - not a psychiatrist, and not another CD - is going to put me in a little box. I reject your stereotypical notion of women, and I reject your notion of what a cross-dresser should be.

Sexual stereotyping, practiced by people who really should know better, is the reason the gender community has not reached its potential. Maybe if this community read a little more about women's position in the world, and a little less about how to properly makeup your face, we could begin to make progress. Ms Gould's theory that this community is being thwarted by body odor and facial hair is laughable.

Sincerely,
Alison T., Canada

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DSM & Transvestism, Yes or No?

The following letter was written to Tere Frederickson in response to an article in Gender Euphoria urging the removal of transvestism and transsexualism from the Diagnostic Statistical Manual used by psychiatrists and psychologists.

Dear Ms. Frederickson:

I read of your recent project in Vol, V, No. 6 of Gender Euphoria and felt that I needed to write. At the recent IFGE Convention in Denver I had several opportunities to talk with Cynthia Howard of the Gender Alternatives League about the same concern you raise in your article. As I understand it, you both are working toward removing transgender behaviors from DSM which you feel will improve society's acceptance of transgender behaviors. I believe there is potential for doing harm to persons with such feelings if these categories are removed. Let me put some perspective on this statement. There are three problems facing the transgender community:

1. Most mental health professionals have had very little training in dealing with issues in human sexuality. Even fewer know how to intervene when transgendered situations create problems in a person's life.

2. Society is becoming more intolerant of all sexual behaviors and situations that do not conform to what is perceived as "normal." Most people define "normal" in terms of their own experiences. Anything else is a suitable candidate for banning.

3. Most people in the transgender community are not willing to make their behaviors public. Cross-dressers are afraid to lose their masculine status and the transsexuals just want to blend into society. This leaves only a minority who are willing to be visible to act as spokespersons.

Taking transgendered categories out of DSM will do little to solve the first two of the problems I stated above. This would leave the average clinician with no commonly found description of transgender behaviors. Without some definitions, the clinician may put the client in an even more negative category, e.g., schizophrenic or multiple personality disorder. Furthermore, most people know nothing of DSM, and so will be unaffected by removal of the categories. Yes, there was a public "splash" when homosexuality was removed from DSM. However, a major reason professionals were persuaded to remove the category of homosexuality was that many gays were willing to publicly state their personal situation. By so doing they demonstrated that they were real people and not "sick perverts." The risks here were enormous for those brave enough to take such a step. Removal of homosexual categories from DSM happened only after significant public awareness. Thus, there was a large public movement long before the change in DSM, and that movement has continued to this day.

The study you are proposing to better define transgender behavior has the potential to be a significant contribution. However, the DSM categories have little if anything to do with theories. DSM is about definitions of "mental disorders." It lists symptoms to help the clinician in finding a clear diagnosis in such situations. Also, a description does not really help determine how a transgendered client should be supported. Only experience provides such guidance.

I am concerned that you believe that you can provide a definitive and absolute description of transgendered behaviors. There are three risks here:

1. Your work will be seen as self-serving because it originates within the community. You will need to link with objective professionals to assure this risk is minimized.

2. You will simply come up with new "labels." To have a set of descriptions that are definitive and comprehensive will result in something so complex as to be unworkable. In fact, were you to do this, you would have another form of the DSM categories.

3. You believe you have "the answer" to understanding and categorizing transgender behaviors. Many people have been studying and "explaining" it for many decades. None has described a verifiable etiology or acceptable terminology.

What I have written is intended to be both objective and helpful. You should know that I have been supportive of the transgender community for many years. As I told Cynthia Howard, "I am willing to work with you to change the public and professional attitude toward transgender behaviors. I believe the stigma of 'mental illness' and 'pervert' must be removed because that does not properly describe the vast majority of

persons in the community."

To move forward requires education of both the professional community and the general public. The study you are proposing could be one step in educating the professionals. Much education is needed before any attempt can be made to change the DSM. Further, before you push to change the DSM, you should determine what the alternative is to guiding clinicians who have transgendered clients. For example, the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care provide such guidance for clinicians who have transsexual clients. No such standards exist for intervention with cross-dressing clients. In addition, it is important that transgendered persons support the education process by speaking to classes and at conventions.

Some persons in the community work to educate the public by appearing in the media. However, some of the people who are spokespersons often do more damage, and present unrealistic images of the community. If you are to make positive changes to society's perceptions, it is crucial to assess the impact of any public appearance before you agree to participate. It is key to decide what purpose is to be served by appearing. Ego has to be put aside, for even if it is a boost to say that you appeared on such-and-such a talk show, if you damage the image of transgendered persons, you have set back the change in public perception. To minimize any negative impacts, I believe there needs to be some way of sensitizing the persons who are willing to appear in the media. This has to be done continuously, so that when an offer to appear is made, the person has the tools to decide whether to appear and what to say/do if they do appear. Some of this has been attempted on a local level. This work has been coordinated so that a consistent and positive image is presented. It is crucial to assure that you do not simply feed the ratings of a program.

In sum, I believe it is a positive step for persons within the transgendered community to want to minimize the stigma associated with such behaviors and feelings. Using the gay community as a model, it is clear that political activism is one way to make changes. However, such an approach has risks, especially for those persons who choose to become publicly visible. It also has risks for the rest of the community, especially if the activists are not seen as truly representing the rest of the community.

As you see, I am sending copies of this letter to Cynthia Howard and to Merissa Lynn. They (and you) have my permission to use this letter in its entirety to begin a dialogue on this crucial issue. In that way we can understand the community's desire and also get ideas on how to proceed.

Sincerely,
Roger Peo, Ph.D., Board Certified Sexologist.

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THE POET'S CORNER

a little ditty
about life through the looking glass
by Selena Anne Shephard C. 1990

The man who wasn't a man, except on rare occasions when he couldn't help but be a man, slips on his slip, oh-so slippery. He panties himself as he always does on forgiving Sundays. He puckers his lips and steals a momentary kiss. Prettier than ever, a sight for sore eyes, he, now a she, steps out to greet the daze. She muses to an amused self, "Funny, I can never remember how I quite got here. Twist of the growing process, I can only venture to guess; turned left when I was supposed to turn right; one moment I was sliding into a base and the next moment I was pulling a girdle up my legs. It's unfathomable, you know, but I wouldn't have it any other way."

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THE DAY FROM THE WOMB
by Megan

Reprinted from "The Flip Side," April 1991, Tri-Delta Chi Chapter of Tri-Ess, P O Box 870213, New Orleans, LA 70187-1300.

"We start out as females,"
Say those who should know.
Some just stay that way,
But others must go
And become little boys.
But then, on the way,
Some will get sidetracked
Or encounter delay.

Whatever does happen,
I'm one of those who
Didn't make it completely
All the way through.

When I was ejected
That day from the womb
And saw light of day
In a delivery room,
"It's a boy," was the cry
When they saw what I had,
And my father was proud
Of his newly born lad.

I was convinced and I
Tried to conform,
And make bulging muscles
Come forth on my arm.
I did all the "male" things
With others like me,
But then something strange
Was just meant to be.

A dress caught my eye when
I was home one day,
And the urge to wear it
Would not go away.

Well some of the girl-stuff
Is present in me,
And I like pretty dresses
As does any she.

And so I will wear them
Each chance that I get,
With make-up and heels,
Also wig and beret.

I look in my mirror,
I'm pleased with the sight
Of a fully dressed lady
With everything "right."

I know of no function
That gives me such bliss,
And I'll go on seeing
This strange little Miss.

I enjoy her company,
She likes to come around.
So I'll keep her coming
'Till I'm underground.

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BREATHTAKING POETRY

every time I try to
stop crossdressing
I feel like
I'm a kid
again
seeing how
long I can
hold my breath

by Sally Nelson

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Taken from CompuServe's GenderLine by Dagny and printed in "The Cactus Flower," Alpha Zeta Chapter of Tri-Ess, P O Box 24459, Tempe, AZ 85285-4459.

NOTIONS
by Sandra Ann

A magical pink potion
Or sensuous lotion
Sometimes a great notion
Then -- WHAM!
G.G. for a day!
There'd be no way to tell
Nor accusing yell
That there's no real gal
Coz -- WHAM!
G.G. for a day!
Come the New Dawn
One last girlish yawn
Femininity gone
And -- WHAM!
My "Guy" comes out to play!

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Reprinted from Femme Mirror, Society for the Second Self, P O Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

DANCING MEMORIES

by Billie Jean Jones, Copyright, printed with permission.

Tonight, last night, tomorrow night
I am drifting in
The Dance, feeling
Shiva/Shakti--
the interconnected
pulsing and shifting
of everything
within all
without all--
dust on the moon
a divorce filed in June.
I am knowing
destruction, feeling
new life stirring--
the sound preceding
birth--
but oh, how I long for
the old dream,
cold stream,
in the misty meadow of
gentle light
a dance within
a dance without
a taste of flavored honey
a twist and shout

Another rise to cosmic heights
another drop to darkest depths

There is dust in the valley
where our dreams used to flow

A vulture in the valley
a death so slow

I feel the sound signifying
nothing more than
a fury of wind--
the rabid dogs of rhetoric
fashioning rationalities of
fabricated realities like
pouring already chipped
paint on a perfectly impeccable
Universe

Cover it up
hide it away
forget what you know
remember what to say

My molecules are dancing
that Shiva-Shakti spin
I am knowing and seeing
without from within

Words can't tell
what anyone knows
What anyone knows
can't be told

My molecules are dancing
in Shiva-Shakti spin
I hope that you can feel
the yin and yang we're in

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ODE TO A PANTY GIRDLE

by Alexandra McKay

If my "Y" had been an "X"
I'd be born the other sex
with a name perhaps like Barbara, Joan or Myrtle.
It could be my free decision,
(And not subject to derision!)
If I wore a Playtex,
Double Diamonds
Panty Girdle.

It would not be a perversion
If I went on an excursion
with my sturdy girdle snuggled round my loins.
For not only would it flatter me
It would fit all my anatomy
from my hips to waist and even in the groin!

It would tuck my tummy sternly
And would mold my fanny firmly
From its two inch waist band down to center thigh.
I'd have thigh-welts
(How unsightly!)
Of metal garters latexed tightly,
While the sheer slick feel of nylons makes me sigh.

Now, I know those who moan and blubber
Over girdles made of rubber
But I guarantee you I'm not one of those.
And you can have the "18 Hour"
It just doesn't have the power
But an odor; T'would smell as sweet if called a "Rose!"
And there's a rhyming, timing hurdle
to fit in:
"I-Can't-Believe-That-It's-A-Girdle"
Though it's the best still made by Playtex, I suppose.

Here's a trick and you can try it!
If you're ever on a diet,
Wear a too small, sturdy girdle round your hips.
When you see a chocolate yummy
While your girdle squishes tummy
You'll think twice before that goody touches lips!

No! I'm not of gay persuasion!
But I do love the occasion,
I can wear a Double Diamonds 'neath my jeans.
But to exclaim the thrill that's chilling me,
To swear,
"Oh, God!
"My girdle's killing me!"
Is an ejaculate I whisper in my dreams.

Copyright 1991 by Alexandra McKay

MY REFLECTION

by Alexandra McKay

I am a reflection
As you wish to see me.

Like a silvered mirror
I reflect
What you wish to see in me.

I could be your knight,
A brave and stoic sight.
Or your lover,
Or another!
If that's what you wish to see in me.

But I could wear your dress,
And it would be no less,
A fantasy!
Than what **you** wish to see in me.

Copyright 1991 by Alexandra McKay

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BEING . . . ME

by Peter Scholfield

Reprinted from The Glad Rag, journal of The Transvestite/ Transsexual Support Group (UK), Shoreditch, London, England.

It's been said before, I'm not denying the truth
That it must have been something that occurred in my youth.
But it happened, and the past cannot be rearranged,
And the person it's made me, I don't want to be changed.

Yet society chooses the clothes I can wear,
By battering me down with its accusing, rude stare,
It frowns on my attempts to express who I am
With sexual divisions that are just a big sham.

When I found how the derision of society hurts
With intent to conform, I destroyed all my skirts.
But now, I've discovered something I did not expect,
What I was really destroying was my self-respect.

Bravery is something I thought I had lacked,
But facing the world can be a very brave act.
Yet, it's worth all the comments and pain it can give,
For I realize now, it's the way I must live.

I'll ignore all the stares, and looks of distaste,
As I only have one life which I'm not going to waste.
So I won't let them spoil my chance to be free,
And I won't let them stop me from just being me.

SNIDE REMARK

by Mitzi Delaune LaBarre

Reprinted from The Flip Side, Tri Delta Chi Newsletter, P O Box 870213, New Orleans LA 70187-1300.

I overheard a snide remark while walking down the street,
"Here comes a faggot up ahead. Doesn't she look sweet!"
I looked to see of whom he spoke, my eyes beheld a sight,
A young man in his twenties in pink and lace so white.
His movement was so graceful, in heels that seemed so high,
I couldn't help but watch him pass, a gleaming in his eye.
He seemed so peaceful with himself, he seemed to have no fears.
How wonderful to find oneself at only twenty years.
What does it mean to be a "fag," I really had to know,
To Webster's Dictionary I surely had to go.
The term in Webster's Book of Words "no origin" I found.
I thought "must be genetic slang," those words sure get around.
I read the definition in the Webster's book I used;
It said, "Male homosexual, disparagingly used."
And then I wondered how this man could raise himself above
Someone else with words of hate instead of words of love.
I feel so sorry for this man, his fear won't let him know
The feelings buried deep inside that scream to be let go.
The macho facade that he must keep to prove that he's a man
Covers up the peace and love that could be in his hand.
So let us educate this man and free him from his woes,
Could be his fear is really loving heels and pantyhose.

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BEACON

S. E. Toon

At times the light seems to fade and to flicker
on something you once thought you had, but it's gone.
And you look at your life, with time far behind you
and nothing beside you but dust and dismay.
You think for a moment that life is there waiting
but you keep hesitating, til it ends up you stay.
But there in the East are the stars ever shining
that keep on reminding, there must be a way.

c. 1977

SPECIAL FEATURE:

THE TRINIDAD EXPERIENCE REVISITED

Photo Credit: Mariette Pathy Allen

The authors whose articles appear in this special feature, and the editors of the Tapestry would like to acknowledge Wendi Pierce. Wendi is the author of the article, 'There And Back Again: The Trinidad Experience', which appeared in Tapestry #57, and inspired this special feature.

PROLOGUE:

On July 11th, 1991, Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Executive Director of IFGE and Editor in Chief of Tapestry Publications, underwent sexual reassignment surgery in Trinidad, Colorado. Dr. Stanley Biber was her surgeon. Renee Chevalier, a member of the IFGE Board of Directors, was scheduled for surgery on July 19th, the day Merissa was scheduled to be sent home. However, she arrived in Trinidad ten days early to provide support for Merissa, and through a twist of fate, was able to reschedule her surgery for July 12th, and instead of just providing support, became Merissa's roommate. Renee and Merissa stayed together for four weeks, through the hospital period, through a week long post-op recovery period in Denver, and through a long, tiring, and uncomfortable trip to San Antonio and an additional recovery period at the famous Bulverde 'TV Castle'. The trip finally ended after an important banquet/concert fundraiser in Houston, which was sponsored by the Texas host organizations for the 1992 'Coming Together' convention.

In Addition to Renee, Merissa's Trinidad entourage included Nancy Cole, Coordinator of IFGE's Historical Research Project and Coordinator for the 1992 'Coming Together' Convention General programs. She joined Merissa in Boston, and like Renee, stayed with her until after the fund raiser in Houston. For the first six days of Merissa's stay in the hospital, her entourage included Dr. Sheila Kirk, a member of the IFGE Executive Committee and author of 'Hormones', Mariette Pathy Allen, professional photographer and author of 'Transformations, Crossdressers And Those Who Love Them', and Terri Johnson, one of Merissa's close friends who came to support her and do a little sight-seeing on the side.

Perhaps most special of Merissa's entourage was Rena Swifthawk and Rena's Uncle Horace. Rena is a Kiowa/Apache medicine woman and shaman serving the Southern Ute Reservation in Southwest Colorado. Her Uncle Horace is a chief, a shaman, and one of the most respected medicine men in the Southwest United States. Rena and Horace not only blessed Merissa and Renee, they also blessed the hospital and the hospital staff, and provided a magnificent display of ancient healing practices and modern medicine working in harmony together.

Mt. San Rafael Hospital, Trinidad, Colorado

Wendi Pierce's article, 'The Trinidad Experience' (#57) was a per-

sonal and often lonely account. The five articles that appear in this feature are intended to complement Wendi's article by looking at the Trinidad experience from five fundamentally different perspectives, and digging deeper into the thoughts, perceptions, and feelings of each person.

Merissa's perspective is that of a patient, and someone who has greater responsibilities to the CD/TS Community. Rena's perspective is that of Merissa's life partner, a Native American shaman, and someone who just ten weeks before was a patient herself. Nancy's perspective is that of a crossdresser interested in supporting her friends, gaining insight into the SRS experience, and gaining a better understanding of herself. Mariette's perspective is that of a researcher, a friend of the CD/TS Community, and being better able to educate the general public of the SRS experience in a positive and constructive way. Sheila's perspective is that of a sister, a loving and supportive friend, and as a medical doctor interested in using her professional skills in service to our community.

MERISSA'S COMMENTS

by Merissa Sherrill Lynn

"I would like to dedicate my comments to the wonderful people who took such good care of the patients in beds 1 & 2 in Room 449: To Sister Roberta, Maria, Joe, Joan, John, Carrie, Lynn, Clay, Louise, Virginia, Rosa, and Erma ... thank you, and God bless you!"

Today is my birthday. I am six weeks old.

Six weeks. Six weeks is no time at all, yet it seems like forever. Six weeks ago I was male, yet when I look at my female body I can't remember ever having been male. It's as though the way I am now is the way I have always been. I've had all my legal documents corrected. Now when I look at my birth certificate, it says "female." Six weeks ago it said "male," yet, it seems as though the way my birth certificate is now, is as it has always been. The 49 years I spent as a male is a foggy memory, something unreal, an incarnation of a previous life.

So, how do I feel? I just underwent a complete sexual metamorphosis... perhaps one of the most dramatic and drastic changes in the human experience. It's done! Complete! So, how do I feel? To be perfectly honest, I don't feel any different. In fact, I don't feel as though I've changed anything at all. From the age of four until the age of thirty-two I struggled with the reality of my soul, and searched for my place in the world. Seventeen years ago I accepted the reality of my soul, and since that time I have been building my place in the world, and preparing for transition. Well, my transition has finally occurred and all I can say is, PHEW!" However, there is one small thing I feel now that I've never felt before. Since the age of four my mind and heart have told me I was female. My image in the mirror and my birth certificate didn't agree. Now my legal documentation and my body agree with my soul, and for the first time in my life I feel ... peace.

Well, I'm who and what I've wanted to be all my life. What now? Business as usual. When I returned from Trinidad my office staff said, "Hi, and by the way, we have to get the

Tapestry out by the 25th, we need an Update, we've got to get the convention programs and the marketing together, we have to get a budget together for the next Board meeting, you have these 200+ newsletters to read, this bucket of mail to answer, and when you have time we have a few other projects for you. Welcome home!" YUK! I'm thinking about going back to Trinidad just out of self defense.

The entourage: L-R Rena, Vicki, Laura, Terri, Nancy, Sheila

Unfortunately, I don't have anybody to blame for the workload except myself. I knew it was going to happen, and I know it could be much worse. In fact, the reason I chose July 11 for my surgery was, given my workload, it was the closest thing I could find to a three week window. I was in between Tapestries, and in between conventions. In other words, it was now or never, Baby. I decided it was now, and what an experience it turned out to be.

Those of you who read my editorial in Issue #58 know that my greatest fear was Mr. Murphy. What could go wrong? Well, nothing went wrong. I made it to Trinidad, had my surgery, made it home, I'm healing fine, and all's well. In fact, I didn't even feel the much touted pre-surgical butterflies. But then, the butterflies were probably all knocked out of me during the trip from Denver to Trinidad. What a white-knuckle experience that was. Nancy was driving. Nancy's an excellent driver -- just a little quick is all. We left Stapleton Airport in Denver in the middle of rush hour traffic. Two hours and fifty minutes later we were in our hotel in Trinidad. Thunderstorms all the way. Keep in mind, Trinidad is a good four hour trip, and that's without traffic and in good weather. All the way down I was saying to myself, **"I'm going to die!"** Every now and then I turned to Nancy and politely reminded her that we really weren't in a rush. To which she replied, "Don't worry, this is the West. Everyone out here drives this way." To which I quietly said to myself, "Really? Then why wasn't anybody else driving this way?" I tried to calm myself by watching the magnificent Colorado landscape go whipping by. "Say, wasn't that Pike's Peak we just passed?" "Probably." And away we went.

We made it (safely) to our hotel, unloaded, and waited for the rest of our entourage to arrive. *(I would like to add we made it to the hotel more than one hour ahead of our nearest competition.)* As we waited I began thinking about our entourage. First, there was me. Enough said about that. Then there was Renee, a long-time personal friend and a member of IFGE's Board of Directors, who was able to get her surgery date changed so we could be roommates. Then there was Sheila, a doctor and member of IFGE's Executive Committee, and Nancy, who was coordinating an IFGE historical research project, and Mariette, a professional photographer, and Terri, who offered her services as go-fer and chauffeur. Finally there was Rena, someone who has a special place in my life, who also happens to be a medicine woman. As an added bonus, Rena brought her uncle Horace, one of the most respected medicine men in the Southwest United States.

So, I was going to show up at the Mount San Rafael hospital with my own roommate, my own doctor, my own biographer, my own photographer, my own go-fer/chauffeur, my own medicine woman, and my own medicine man. In addition, I knew Laura, a lawyer, and Kim, who owned a hotdog stand, were going to arrive over the weekend, which meant I not only had my own roomie, doctor, biographer, photographer, go-fer, chauffeur, medicine woman, and medicine man, I also had my own lawyer and weenie wagon. I thought to myself, "Yes, changing my sex is going to be a new experience for me, but our crew is definitely going to be a new experience for the hospital."

That first night I was in a light-hearted mood, especially when Renee showed up. We began bouncing around and giggling like a couple of ten year old schoolgirls excited about going on our first camping trip together. But slowly my mood changed.

Rena had not arrived. There's no describing my connection with Rena. It's as though I could feel her. Most anyone who has ever met Rena has experienced the same sensation. Rena was going to do a sacred blessing for me both before and after surgery. I had experienced Rena's blessings before, and knew they worked. I also knew they were based on thousands of years of tradition, and was deeply honored that she was going to do this for me, an honor strengthened by the knowledge she was giving up Sun Dance, an important sacred

ceremony for her, in order to give me this blessing. It meant so much to me to have Rena there, and meant so much to Rena to be there, yet, Rena had not arrived.

Throughout the evening I felt a growing sense of uneasiness, an anxiety that went far beyond my own. Perhaps the best way to put it is I felt a sense of lostness and frustration. Midway through dinner this feeling became so strong I began to cry. I couldn't stop. People kept coming to me trying to reassure me she was all right. That wasn't it. I knew she was all right. I was crying for another reason, a reason I didn't understand myself. Yes, at that moment Rena was lost, and yes, she was also crying. There's no explaining it.

Finally, Rena arrived and my heart went flying. Everyone was there, and I was ready.

The next day I experienced the standard Dr. Biber 'check-me-out-pay-the-bills' ceremony, followed by the hospital's standard 'check in, go here, read this, sign this, pay this, go there, listen to this, shut up and watch this' ceremony, after which I was in for the duration. I was assigned the famous bed #2 in room 449, the same bed occupied by Rena, Wendi Pierce, Da`nelle Martin, and other IFGE notables. "When I'm done with this bed," I thought to myself, "I'm going to have it bronzed." Then I checked out the bed's comfort factor and said to myself, "No point in having it bronzed, feels like it already has been." Although both Rena and Wendi had warned me, at that time I had no idea how much I would grow to hate that miserable bed.

In order to prep me for what I was about to experience, they brought me tapes to watch. Renee joined me, and we watched them together. As we watched I interlocked my little finger with hers. To me the little finger is the gentlest and most sensitive part of the hand, and interlocking the little fingers is a loving gesture I reserve for those people

closest to me. As we lay with our fingers joined I could feel our hearts beating together, carrying a communication between us, reminding us of the journey we were about to take together, and the journey that brought us here.

Compared to Renee, my journey was easy. Since the age of four I spent nine years expecting God to fix it, followed by twenty years of misery which left me with no family, no career, and no personal baggage. Then, for the last seventeen years I've been preparing myself for this trip to Trinidad. My pain had passed into a distant memory, and I was ready. Renee was not so lucky. Yes, she had also experienced pain, but hers was still with her. I was at her wedding, and knew her wife and children, and I also knew the love she still had for them. I met her parents and knew how important they were to her. For ten, maybe fifteen years, I don't know how long, I've been her friend and stood by her as she sought for peace of mind, and her place in the sun. Through her little finger I could feel her pain, and could

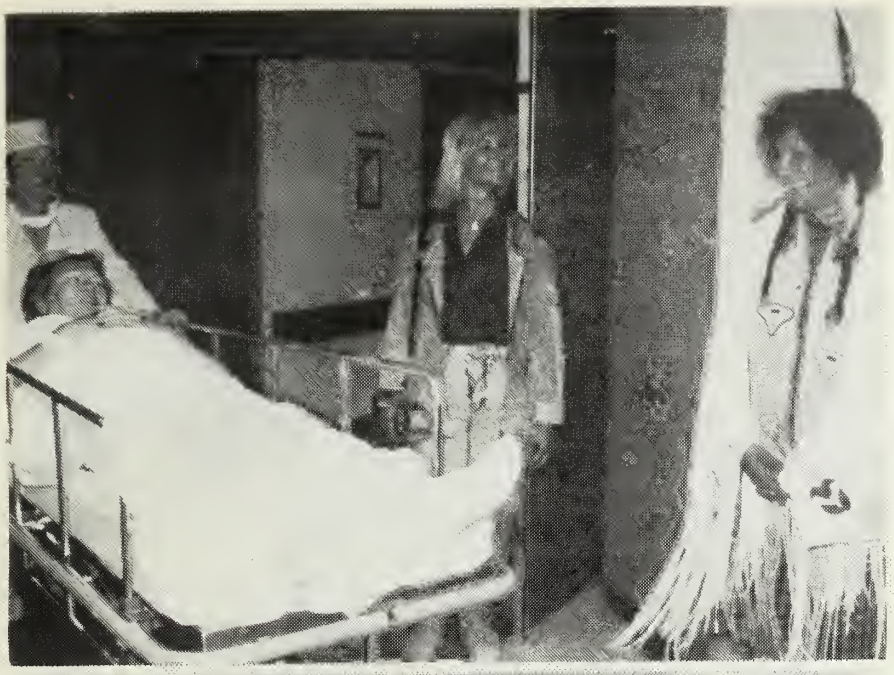
feel her fear. I was so grateful that providence allowed us to be together, and that I would be there for her and be able to share my support with her. Through my little finger I wanted to tell her my strength was hers, and I loved her, and that it would be OK. I also wanted to tell her that we were about to experience something together that was really quite wonderful, something few human beings had ever shared. That afternoon I felt a sense of bonding with her, a sense I knew was going to stay with me for the rest of my life. My friend, my sister ... how special, how very very special.

"How ageless she looked, so ancient, yet so young and beautiful."

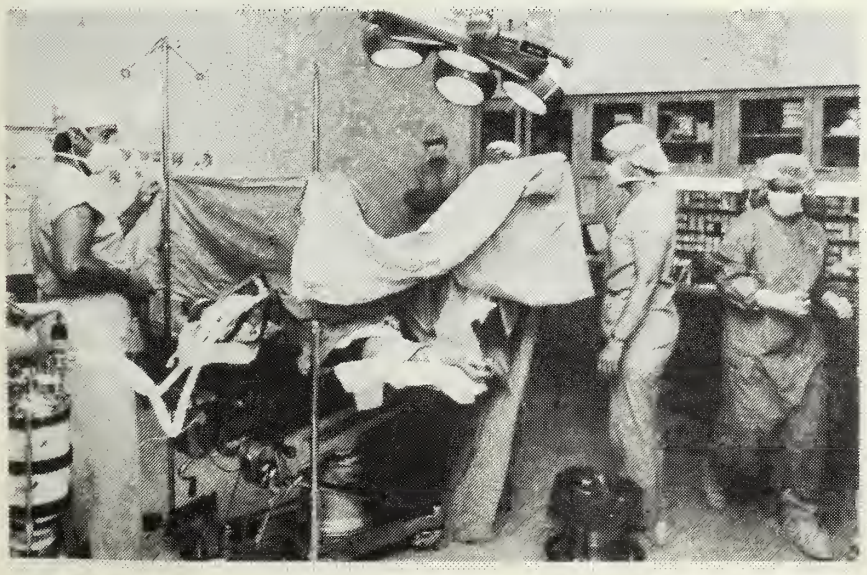
The tapes finished, and the nurses chased everyone out. For the first time I was alone. It was butterflies time. I laid there. Well? Where were the butterflies? In fact, except for a few pre-surgical unpleasantries which I won't discuss here, all I could think about was Rena and the rest of my kids out there wandering around Trinidad. I knew, for certain, that each and every one of them was far more nervous than I. After all, I'd been preparing for this for 17 years ... "I'm ready, so let's get on with it!" They didn't have the same luxury. They were family, they loved me, and they were worried. I wanted to comfort them and tell them it was OK, but it was hard to do that when I was naked as a jaybird, lying upside down, looking at two nurses armed with razors and a five gallon enema bag.

(In a hospital modesty is the first thing to go, followed immediately by any sense of personal dignity. Trust me -- I know what I'm talking about. It's amazing how undignified one can feel after a few days on the dreaded 3M diet [metamucil, milk of magnesia, and mineral oil.])

6:00am, July 11, I was about to be reborn. Rena was there to do her blessing. The entourage was



"Let's see, were the instructions on how to do this thing in 'Lifestyles' or on the sports page?"



"I wonder how many of Stanley's patients giggled their way into surgery?"

there to watch, as was half the hospital staff. No one talked, or even moved while Rena prepared herself -- native dress, eagle feathers, and smoke from sweet grass to purify the room, the nurses, our guests, and me. Morning light gleamed through the windows, yet it seemed to illuminate only Rena. How ageless she looked, so ancient, yet so young, and so beautiful. As she silently went from person to person I listened to her feathers, and smelled her smoke, and watched an aura grow about her. There was a sense of spiritual power in the room, a power that warmed me, and bathed my senses with peace. Then Rena stood above me and began her sacred blessing. I do not remember much of what she said, for I had cleared my mind to let my heart do the listening. She was not speaking to me. Rather, she was speaking on my behalf to the Creator, to Grandfather Sun, and to Grandmother Earth. I did not need to hear her words. I felt her meaning.

As I was on the gurney being wheeled towards surgery, I thought to myself, "I am placing my life into the hands of modern medicine, yet I feel no fear, only confident ... and happy. I know I've chosen my surgeon and staff well, yet my courage and my confidence doesn't come from Doctor Biber. It comes from Rena, Rena and her healingway. Modern and ancient medicine working in harmony, and I am the beneficiary. How much she has to teach us. How much we have to learn."

The doors to the surgery room swung open and I looked up at Joe, one of Doctor Biber's assistants, and said, "Do me good!" He looked at me and said, "Don't worry. Doctor Biber is the best there is, and we are the best at what we do." I gave him a huge smile and said, "Yes, I know. That's why I'm here. Now, do me good!" I watched his head go up, and a smile crease his face, and could see his pride. Yes, he, and the rest of the staff were, in fact, the best.

Mariette and Sheila were given permission to watch the surgery, and I looked around for them. Out of the corner of my eye, in a small room, I could see Doctor Biber and a couple of his assistants reading newspapers. I thought to myself, "Oh, I hope Mariette gets a picture of that. What a great caption: 'Let's see, were the instructions on how to do this thing in the

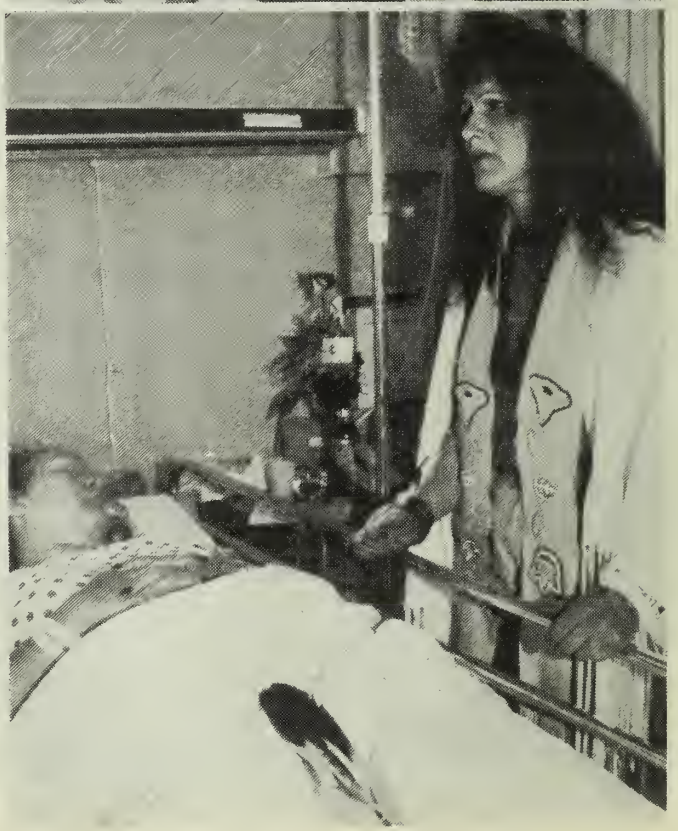
Lifestyles section, or on the Sports page?'" When the anesthesia hit, the last thing I remember was giggling myself silly. I wonder just how many patients Doctor Biber has had who giggled their way into surgery.

When I awoke I first saw Little Pepina, Sheila's clown doll, smiling down on me from the window. She was surrounded by the Tiffany Club's beautiful red roses, Kerri's delicate pink tea rose, Ellen's begonias, and my coffee mug that said, "It's official -- I've become my mother." I smiled, then noticed that my body was trussed up in an entangled web of tubes and needles and catheters and IV's. Above me was a big beautiful yellow victory ribbon that Nancy had tied to my IV stand. The room was filled with smiling people, and the most beautiful smile of all was Rena's, as she stood beside me, still in her native dress, ready to do the second half of her sacred blessing. I reached down and felt clean and smooth, and said to myself, "Yeah!"

Rena began her blessing, and as before I cleared my mind and let my spirit do the listening. As a shaman and medicine woman, Rena was skilled at choreographing natural forces, and had a mystical way of knowing exactly the right thing to say. Her healingway was based on the healing power of the mind complimented by the healing power of Nature, and a healing knowledge accumulated by her people over a period of 14,000 years. I believed in Rena, and therefore believed in her healing power, yet, the results startled me. As she spoke I felt my physical discomfort leave me, from my head, from my arms, from my back, from my legs, slowly, like a warm spiritual massage. She then placed a large eagle's feather over my new vagina, and suddenly it felt like a thousand tiny fingertips all working together trying to coax my body back to life. I did not ask how this could be happening, I just experienced the fact that it was ... no judgment, no analytical examination of the phenomena, no intellectual evaluation, no questions. Rena's people have a phrase for the way I felt. The phrase is "**AH-OHN-TAII**," a Kiowa expression meaning, "**I feel spiritually good**!"

For the rest of the day, for the rest of the week for that matter, my bed was like sitting ringside at a circus. I had no less than six mothers watching over me. People in, people out. Nurses in, nurses out. Florists in, florists out. Phones ringing, cards and flowers everywhere. It was wonderful. Then, during his fourth trip of the day, the florist, looking a little pooped, turned to me and said, "What are you, some sort of celebrity?" I smiled sweetly and replied, "Just a little one."

Nancy tied back the window curtains with huge scarlet ribbons, and attached a ribbon to the door, right over her 'I.F.G.E. WEST' sign. The standard response to the telephone was, "IFGE West, how my we help you?" We left the door open and the fan on so the smell of the flowers would carry down the hallways. Our room became a regular tourist spot. People stopped by the room and made comments like, "Ooooo, I've never seen anything like this before," and, "Oh, how beautiful." I was proud to share our room with them, for I



agreed with them. Our room was beautiful, but, it was much more than that. To me the people, the cards, the ribbons, and the flowers were gifts of love.

My attention turned to Renee. It was her turn. I heard her laughter, saw her smile, and felt her fear. My surgery went perfectly, and hers would too. How could it be otherwise? After all, Rena was there, and Nancy, and Sheila, and Mariette, and Terri, and I. She had the best doctor, and the best nurses. She also had the loving support of our entire community. How could it be otherwise?

It was not otherwise. Rena gave her an absolutely perfect blessing, the surgery went great, and all that was left for both Renee and me, was the healing.

Rena's blessing ... what a remarkable thing to see. Being blessed was one thing, but watching someone you care about being blessed was something different altogether. Phew, what a powerful experience. Again, she said exactly the right thing in exactly the right way. She felt herself into every gesture, into every word. Tears rolled down her cheeks as she gave her strength to Renee, and called for the strength of Renee's warrior within. Renee, a catholic, put her hands together and prayed while Rena prayed, and I thought to myself, "My God, I wish the entire world could see this. A catholic and a shaman praying together in absolute harmony for a single purpose. Oh, how I wish we could all do the same. Pray together, with a single purpose, and heal the wounds of the world."

The days passed, each one longer than the day before. Finally, I lost all track of time. Mariette, Terri, and Rena were scheduled to leave on Sunday. When they left I told them, "I'm so grateful you all were able to stay an extra day." "But this is only Sunday," they replied. Sheila left for Boston on Monday. Around 7:30 that evening I received a call from my office. It was Yvonne, our Director of Operations. We chatted a bit, then she told me she had to leave to pick Sheila up at the airport, to which I blurted, "My God, she's not there yet? She left last Monday." "But this is Monday," she replied.

By Tuesday it was all out of control. It was terrible. My back was killing me, I couldn't sleep, and I had this intense desire to chuck my damned bed out the window. To make matters worse, I had things to do. One of those things was to develop a manual describing the IFGE operating procedures and job descriptions. I tasked Nancy to help me, and she presented me with a seventeen page effort. It was an important piece of work that demanded my attention. It was Tuesday's project, but I couldn't do it. Her work lay in my hands like so much blank paper. I looked at the words and nothing registered. My mind had the consistency of chocolate pudding, and I've known guppies with greater attention spans than I had. Frustration set in, and the frustration fed my anger. I longed for Rena. I wanted her beside me, to hold me, to heal me, to help me do my work. But Rena wasn't there and I felt alone. I looked out the window. The window was filled with flowers. One bouquet was decorated with a broad pink ribbon

trimmed with delicate gold stripes. That ribbon pierced my senses like a knife through my arrogant heart. It reminded me that people loved me, and expected me to heal. Healing was my job, my responsibility to all those people that cared about me, yet all I could think of was my need to work. "Damn it! The work will wait. Put it down and give yourself a chance to heal!"

The command gave me no comfort. I continued to stare at the ribbon while my heart felt like it was being ripped apart. The flowers, the beautiful flowers that filled the room with a splendid profusion of color and sweet aromas. Each flower given by someone who cared about me. And the cards, two walls completely covered with cards, each one from someone trying to cheer me and wish me well. And Renee, lying peacefully in the bed next to me, my friend, my sister, sharing this incredible journey with me. And Rena, my beautiful special Rena, feeling her love and her strength as she reached out to me from wherever she was. Nancy, Sheila, Mariette, Terri. All my visitors, and phone calls, and the wonderful hospital staff. The hospital staff ... oh, how I appreciated them. Love surrounded me, and engulfed me. The love I felt at that moment was a love I wished all our people, and the people we touch, could feel. But I knew they didn't.

Why was I so lucky? Was this great gift of love given to me for a reason? Was it like the great gift of pain I had received so many years ago - a gift to be used to help others? Yes, yes it was! A gift from whom? God? The Creator? Providence? It didn't matter. It only mattered that it was a gift for a reason, and I knew the reason. That knowledge reaffirmed my life's commitment to helping others, and filled me with joy.

My thoughts turned to those others, first to the thousands of kids who had their surgery before me, who had gone through this awful experience, but with no flowers, no visitors, no cards, no phone calls, and no loving support ... none at all, not even a caring hospital staff. What was it like for them? What about the thousands that will follow? What will it be like for them? What about all our people, transsexual or not? I thought to myself, "Our community is a world of pain, and ignorance, and fear. We can help our people. We must help our people. We have so much to do ... I have so much to do, so much, and I'm lying here unable to do anything. GODDAMN IT!"

Once again my sense of love gave way to my sense of frustration. From discomfort, to frustration, to anger, to loneliness, to joy, to love, to frustration, to anger ... I was caught up in an emotional mobius strip with no top, no bottom, no beginning, and no end. All my sensations fused together into one monstrous emotion, gaining power, and there was no stopping it ... then BANG! I crashed! I spent the rest of the day buried in a junkyard of emotional wreckage, basically a non-functional human being.

I shook, gasped for breath, and tears poured down my cheeks. Nancy rushed to my side and took my hand as I tried to tell her what was happening to me. All I could get out was, "I can't focus, I can't function." As incoherent as I was, Nancy understood. The hospital staff did not.

The hospital staff had taken care of thousands of patients before me, and I was certain they had dealt with cases of post-op depression. However, I was equally certain they had never dealt with anyone like me. Nurses rushed in from everywhere. Even Joe came in from surgery to see if he could help. I tried to explain to them what had happened to me, but they just nodded their heads up and down while they were standing by my bed, but from side to side when they walked out the door. Can't say as I blame them though. I mean, if I were a nurse, how would I react if I heard one of my patients had just crashed, and the explanation for it was, "I'm happy, I love my people, and I think you guys are terrific!"? Chances are I'd also walk out the door shaking my head.

Well, I recovered, and the next day they let me out of bed. "Free at last, free at last, thank God almighty, I'm free at last." I sprang out of bed, a process which took the better part of fifteen minutes, and began doing laps to Renee's bed and back, a distance of about eight feet. Eventually I stretched the laps out to the nurses station, and from there the sky was the limit. Well, actually, the cafeteria was the limit.

Joan, one member of Mt. San Rafael's outstanding nursing staff.

Renee tells me my first words to her when I stood up were, "I can get out of bed and you can't. Nyah nyah!" I would never say anything as cruel as that. At least, I would never admit it.

The rest of my stay in the hospital was easy. I got up, walked around, sat, and got some work done. It felt good. I felt good.

On Friday, Renee was up and around as I checked out of the hospital. Nancy took me back to the hotel, then returned to the hospital to take care of Renee. It was quiet in my hotel room, and the bed was comfortable. I rested and watched out the window as a brief thunderstorm rolled over Trinidad. When it had passed I got up and went outside to get some exercise and smell the fresh air. The thunderstorm was passing over Fisher Mountain, a flat butte that overlooked Trinidad. Behind me the sun was setting, which created a magnificent double rainbow that stretched over Fisher mountain and Trinidad. To me a rainbow is Nature's magic at its very best, and there is nothing more beautiful, except perhaps for Nature's love.

I could not help but feel that rainbow was for me, and for me alone. As I watched it fade into the distance I reflected on my journey. My trip to Trinidad was accompanied by countless rainbows, each one a harbinger of things to come. I had seen miracles performed, felt the spectrum of human emotions, and in a single moment of a sacred blessing saw the answer to world harmony. I had felt a rededication to my life's work, and felt God touch my soul. Everything I experienced, everything I had become was reflected in the colors of that rainbow. Yes, that rainbow was for me. It was Nature's way of saying to me, "Merissa, your journey is complete, and now you have healing work to do. Good luck in your new life, and be well." Yeah!

Ah-ohn-tah!

< END >

A TRIP TO ACCEPTANCE

by Nancy Cole

Beginning on July seventh, 1991, I traveled for twenty-eight days with Merissa Sherrill Lynn and Renee Chevalier. I spent the whole trip as 'Nancy,' from Boston, Massachusetts, to Trinidad, Colorado, to Houston, Texas. Today, my reasons for going with them are less clear than they were when I began the journey. I was able to rationalize that I was going along with Merissa and Renee to provide the support and assistance that so many of our sisters who have gone to Trinidad lacked. Wendi Pierce's piece, "The Trinidad Experience, There and Back Again," which appeared in the Tapestry about her experience when she went to Trinidad provided the idea and all the justification and motivation I thought I needed. All that was well and good, for it got me there.

In my mind, I expected that I would be able to deal with Merissa's surgery in the same manner that I have dealt with similar situations in the past. Hospitals and fresh wounds are not strangers to me. I soon found, however, that I could not be a dispassionate observer, hiding behind the cool, at times cold and passionless demeanor that had served me so well in the past. Instead of being a hovering angel of mercy, a cheerleader, a handholder, and a stand-by bedpan detail, completely detached from the events unfolding before me, I became a participant.

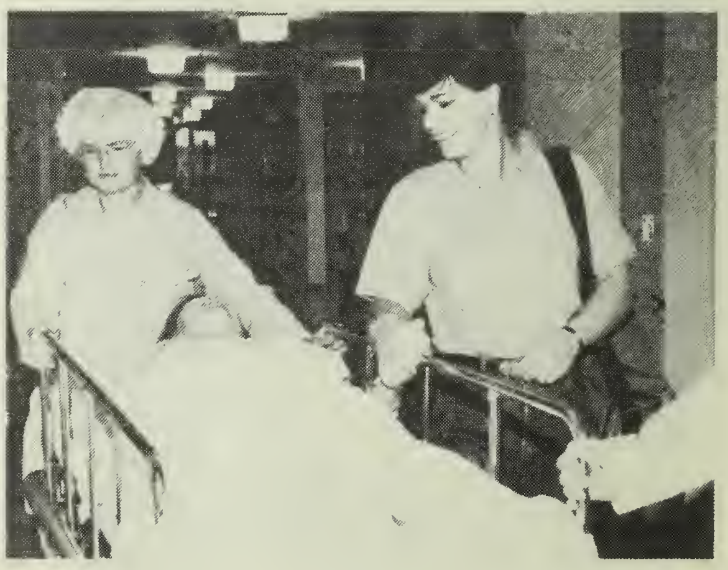
While I watched the joys and the traumas as both Merissa and Renee Chevalier experienced what they call their rebirths, I found myself drawn into the emotions and the pain that they and others felt when they had come to lend their support. I was not a bystander, I was a participant, in every sense of the word. I lost my old ability to deal dispassionately with the world and with my feelings. Instead of keeping them at arm's length, and well hidden I allowed them to gush out as I had not done in years. This tremendous emotional experience had a great effect on me, for after the passions and emotions of the moment tore away many of the psychological barriers that had served me so well in the past, I was left with the task of looking into my soul and asking myself the old questions, "Who am I?" and "Where am I going?"

In my efforts to sort out my emotions and feelings during the four weeks I spent traveling about the Southwest, I was ably assisted by the many and varied experiences that I had the privilege to participate in, as well as by the people who were there to support Merissa and Renee. Sheila Kirk, Mariette Pathy Allen, Terri Johnson, Rena Swifthawk, Laura Smiley, Kim Schreiber, Dianna Cicotello, Cynthia and Linda Phillips, and a host of sisters in both Colorado and Texas did as much to prop me up when I needed the support as they did for Merissa and Renee. While this was important, of greater significance was the support I received from the people outside our community, the civilians, the occupants of the real world whom I came in contact with on a daily basis. While I was trying to rebuild my own self image, I had to continue to function. I had a commitment both to Merissa and to Renee that I could not drop. One could, in retrospect, call my experience work therapy, learning to deal with my problems while helping others through theirs. For me, it was a journey to acceptance, a journey I hadn't planned, but wouldn't have missed for anything.

The word acceptance, like so many words in our language, is convoluted with many different meanings. Webster's first definition states that acceptance is, "An accepting or being accepted." The second definition states that acceptance is, "Approving reception, approval; acceptability." The final definition it gives is, "Belief in; assent." As I traveled about the Southwest, I experienced and came to understand each of these definitions. I think it is important that I share my thoughts with you, for each of us has to learn about acceptance if we are to become effective and happy members of our community, both the gender community, and the world.

I believe that in order to be accepted by others, you have to accept yourself. In order to accept yourself, you have to understand yourself. Going to Colorado, I thought I both accepted and understood myself. Actually, what I had was a persona, or a repertoire of personas, that I had created and was able to use as I dealt with the world. Using them like masks, I would switch from one to another as circumstances dictated. The first of these personas to fall by the wayside was 'Nancy,' the Average American Cross-Dresser. She was shattered the first week, and set the stage for the collapse of the nice, comfortable world I had created for myself.

Years ago, when I finally managed to admit to myself that I was confused about my gender and realized that no amount of grunting, or dragging my knuckles on the ground, or watching football games was going to change that, I began thrashing about in an effort to discover who, or, more correctly, what I was. Enter Merissa. Circumstances put me in New England, and in contact with the Tiffany Club just when I began this thrashing about. The Tiffany Club provided me with a warm, friendly, and varied environment in which I could explore my gender issues, and Merissa provided a guiding voice in the midst of this storm. Like the kid in the proverbial candy store, I was wide-eyed and wanted to try everything in an effort to discover who and what I was.



The emotions and experiences of this time, for me, were no different from those which many of you feel during and

immediately after your first event or meeting. It was true gender euphoria, unrestrained and unguided. Anything was possible, then, including the dream of becoming a full time woman.

Reality, that great sobering experience, began to assert itself. Using Merissa as a sympathetic ear and a sounding board, I was able to address the reality of my life and temper my wildest dreams, transforming them into something that could be accommodated. The facts, those horrible bits and pieces of real life that tend to crush our gender euphoria, began to assert themselves. When I was in New England, I was dedicated to a profession that was important to me, and as much a part of me as anything else. I could not, then, separate myself from my profession and survive. Equally as important was my love for my spouse, who had just learned of my cross-dressing after seven years of marriage. My obligations and responsibilities to her, and to the children I had brought into the world, were as real as those I owed to my profession. In the harsh light of reality, I had to decide. I had to decide if I was going to accept my responsibilities and bury my dreams, or run after something that I might never be able to obtain, something that after getting there I might find really didn't suit me. At that time, sanity and balance prevailed.

From that experience, the persona of 'Nancy,' the Average American Cross-Dresser grew. For the next seven years, she served me well. As 'Nancy' grew, and my understanding and acceptance of myself increased, I matured into a more complete and better person. At some point I was able to let 'Nancy' and 'Dirty Harry' merge. This let Nancy go out into the real world and be effective, while it softened some of Harry's rough edges.

Some time between the tenth and twelfth of July, 1991, the persona of 'Nancy,' the Average American Cross-Dresser died. I should have seen it coming. It started back in Provincetown in October, 1990, during my second Fantasia Fair. The need to reassess that, and my other personas, should have struck home in January and February, 1991, when 'Dirty Harry' was called upon once more to apply those skills that come so naturally to him. But, there was no serious reassessment. I was able to keep my emotions in check and bury, even under the most adverse and harrowing circumstances, my own reality.

Instead, reality hit me in Trinidad on July tenth. It was in Stanley Biber's office, when Merissa was undergoing her final exam, that I really began what amounted to a breakdown. Renee Chevalier, scheduled for her sex reassignment surgery on July nineteenth asked if she could move that date up so she could piggy back on the travel and recovery arrangements I had made for Merissa. Marie, Dr. Biber's secretary checked her schedule and announced that there had been a cancellation on the twelfth. If Dr. Biber agreed, Renee could have that date.

As Renee was overcome with joy over having the opportunity to complete her SRS earlier than expected, two thoughts burst in my mind in quick succession. First, that meant that Renee's original date, the nineteenth, was now open. The second thought, unsolicited and spontaneous, was a shattering realization. For, once I realized the nineteenth was free, I asked myself the question that did not fit into the well-molded persona of 'Nancy,' the Average American Cross-Dresser. Standing there, surrounded by Renee, Sheila, Mariette, and Terri, I thought, "Gee, I wonder if there is any way that I can talk Stanley into scheduling me on the nineteenth?"

I need not belabor what that question, so spontaneous, did to the nice, safe image I had created. The self image I had built so carefully over the years to fit into the reality of the world I was living in came crashing down in a few brief seconds. Over the next week, the conflict that was created by that crash haunted me day and night. As I watched Merissa and Renee go through their surgery and recover, I took mental notes, telling myself, "No problem, I can do that." Against these practical considerations, I had to continuously weigh the reality of my life and what SRS would mean to that life, and to those who shared it with me. I can tell you, in all sincerity,

that I have never experienced a period of such intense and distressing emotional upheaval as I did while in Trinidad. When we finally did leave on July twentieth, I was as happy to leave as Merissa and Renee were.

From Trinidad, we went to Denver, where Merissa and Renee were to continue their recovery. It was in Denver that I was able to reenter the real world. I was able to regain my own equilibrium and sort my emotions. I could do that because, in the process of tending to Merissa's and to Renee's needs, I had to go into the world peopled by real humans, and conduct the routine, somewhat mundane tasks of living. I did so as Nancy. Too busy to worry about how people were reacting to me, it took several days for me to appreciate several important points, points that helped me regain an appreciation for who and what I was.

First, and by far the most important to me, I was accepted by everyone I dealt with and met as what I appeared to be. It would be vain of me to think that I passed all the time. Every now and then, someone would finish a conversation with a 'sir.' It was a nice, convenient reminder that I wasn't perfect. But, what was significant, and critical to me, was that even these people, people who knew that I wasn't what I appeared to be, treated me in a manner befitting the circumstances and my dress. People everywhere, in every walk of life, and under varied circumstances were accepting me as I was.

There was no great fuss, no tremendous fanfare to announce my acceptance by the world. Things just don't happen that way in life. Instead, it was a very slow, almost imperceptible process. But, it was steady and consistent. It happened in the grocery store in Denver, and at numerous gas stations throughout Texas. In stores, movie theaters, malls, and restaurants, I went about my business and the rest of the world did, too. Only when I looked back, and considered what was happening, did it dawn on me what this meant. "If the rest of the world," I thought, "could accept me for what I was and allow me to live my life, as I am and as I see fit, why couldn't I?" The corollary question was, "If I am able to function now, as I am, and enjoy it, why do I need to change anything? Why do I feel the necessity to consider sex reassignment surgery, and all the trauma and pain it will cause those I love and who love me when, in truth, I do not need it in order to function effectively in this world and enjoy myself while I do so?"

In Bette Midler's song "The Rose," the final verse tells of hope and renewal.

Just remember, in the winter,

Far beneath the bitter snow,

Lies the seed, that with the sun's love,

In the spring, becomes the rose.

My journey to self acceptance ended in San Antonio, and in Houston, Texas. It was in the person of Cynthia Phillips that the stark darkness and despair of Trinidad and Denver began to disperse. In the warmth of her smile and friendship, I learned to accept myself. Instead of the persona of 'Nancy,' the Average American Cross-Dresser, I began to warm up to the idea that I was not a cross-dresser. Nor, I realized, as I watched Cynthia and Linda Phillips and learned more about their lives and experiences, was I a transsexual.

I am a unique person that was created by a unique set of circumstances and experiences. There were many elements in me that, on a nice, clean, white sheet of paper, would label me a transsexual. I accept that. At the same time, there exist many elements that, on a different sheet of paper, would add up to the classic cross-dresser. I accept that. There also exists, and always has, 'Dirty Harry,' as much a part of me as anything else. I accept that. Mixed in among all of this are my responsibilities as a father and a husband, a professional and a citizen. All of this I accept. And there is one more thing I accept, the love of those who know me and love me for what I am.

Though still confusing, the one unifying element that made all the difference this time, in letting me come to terms with myself was the fact that I was able to accept all of this. I was, and I am, able to accept that there is no one clean label or lifestyle that will make everything okay. Instead, life, and the real world are a complex set of truths, some of which do not neatly mesh together. At times they are in outright conflict. Like the people who accept me and continue to deal with me as a person, even though I do not neatly mesh into the established and acceptable social categories that they were raised to believe in, I am now able accept myself and go forth and live. I have, as the Webster definition states, been accepted and, as a result, can accept. That this has taken so long may surprise you. That I have been able to make this journey, and experience it, is wonderful. I wish each of you as much success on your journeys.

[end]

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A TRIBUTE TO TRINIDAD

by Sheila Kirk, M.D.

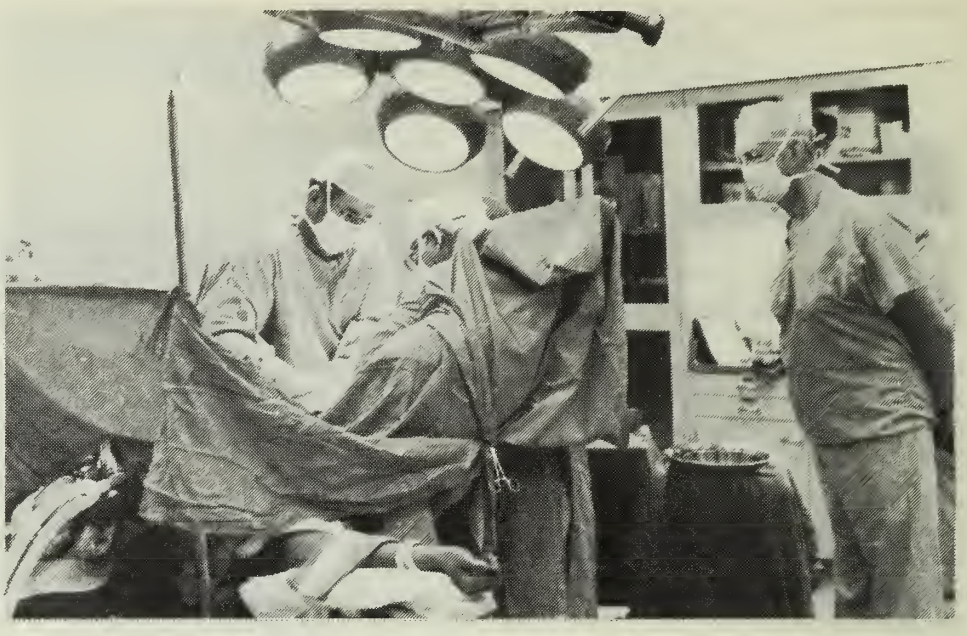
I recently returned from a small community deep in Colorado, four hours south of Denver. Initially I was tempted to call it "Pedunkville, USA," but after I walked the streets and talked with a few of the business people and townsfolk, I found the pressures of life were the same as anywhere else, high unemployment, limited income, and stress. Yet, there was an ease with life, a quiet adaptation to the flat lands and the mountains, and a passive agreement with the hot sun, the lack of rain, and the cool nights. Some shops were lovely, with beautiful things to buy. Some were dull. Some were abandoned ghosts of the past. The homes were plain and simple, interesting only because of the people sitting on the porches or working in the gardens. This was Trinidad, Colorado, where hundreds of transgendered people came each year. They came to see Dr. Stanley Biber.

Dr. Biber is a quiet, unassuming man of unsuspected force and power. His skill as a surgeon is overpowering. His talent is more than remarkable. His acceptance and understanding is colossal. In essence, Dr. Biber is Trinidad, and Trinidad is Dr. Biber. He reflects the town in his warmth, his simplicity, and his gentle contact with every person in every day. They are a mirror of each other - Trinidad and Biber, Biber and Trinidad.

In the quiet resolution and acceptance that the town and Dr. Biber showed us, we felt something huge and towering. It was a canopy of love, a devotion that gave the message, "While you are in this town, in this hospital, at this place on earth, we will take care of you."

I came to Trinidad for many reasons. I wanted to be with my dearest friends Merissa Sherrill Lynn and Renee Chevalier

while they had their surgery, and to function as a support for them. I wanted to be a researcher for my community. I wanted to meet this physician who in about twenty years' time had done over 2700 procedures for gender dysphoric people, and watch him perform that surgery. And finally, I wanted to talk with him about his perfected technique and his statistics and results.



I accomplished all this, and much more. The rewards of the experience to me are still not definable, or possible to count.

I saw the technique, the brilliant, innovative style of an accomplished, talented surgeon who could walk the surgical wards of the world's finest hospitals with honor and acclaim. He works in a small hospital with an operating unit that has only one major operating room, well-equipped, but somewhat frugal. It may have two or three operations on a busy day, and at best, only about a hundred obstetrical cases in a year. (What a contrast! My own hospital has a census of 10,000 deliveries every year.) His assistants were all experienced and positive in what they were doing. Yet, I heard him joke with them, and listened to them counter with equal humor and lighthearted jibes. At the same time he was using a very gentle, careful, and meticulous touch on human body tissues, I heard him talk of needing to brand his calves, which was rancher's work. Jose and Joe, the surgical assistants, moved with him as two more parts of the same machine. Angel, the scrub nurse, anticipated each of their actions. The charge nurse, Lois, was circulating one minute, folding linens the next, answering the call for more light or more suture with a calm assurance.

The scene was overwhelmingly charged for me. My dear friends were being operated on, being born anew, transferred to a new life - into new beings. The skill, the acceptance, the dedication, the caring attention to accomplish this was present everywhere. It was overpowering, glorious, majestic. I felt a curious wave of mixed emotion: concern for my friends, appreciation for the skill of the operator, appreciation for the dedication and warmth of the operating room personnel, and the realization of what was happening in front of me. All this left me exhausted to a point that I needed to go back to my room to rest, to recover, and to sleep.

It was a ceremony ... a celebration. It was simple, yet complex, daring, yet delicate. It was done in a sterile and proper operating room staffed by trained, accepting people, led by a quiet man of humor, a man of the earth, yet a giant in the surgical records of this age.

I struggled so often not to cry when I watched the staff nurses give post-operative care to these dear friends, bathing them, caring for their most basic of needs, giving support and comfort. At times

they called them "honey," and "dear" as they cared for the girls in Room 449 at the end of the hall. I looked forward to the daily visit of Sister Roberta, one of the Sisters from the community of nuns who operate this hospital, Mt. San Rafael, so fondly called "the hotel" by Merissa. The support and encouragement from Sister Roberta during each visit was overwhelming. Here, in this isolated, small hospital, in this isolated little community, was the attitude and the love for another human being, moving to satisfy a compassionate need. The force of such acceptance and allowance, not found anywhere but in this small dryland community deep in Colorado, is overpowering. I have not seen such acceptance anywhere else before this.

Now back in Boston, I see streets filled with people moving along in quest of their own needs. I look in the stores, bright, filled with things to sell. I listen to the street noises, the pneumatic drills, the cars. I see the garish signs, and the evidence of progress, of economic change, and of vitality. Yet, here is isolation, isolation of a damaging kind. Here, the human beings are isolated from each other even though they touch as they pass on the street. Here, they don't want to know, they don't want to care.

Hail to you, Trinidad! I praise you for your humanity, for your love of your fellow beings. I praise the hospital personnel for their generosity of spirit. Most of all, I give great gratitude to Dr. Biber for his acceptance of me, and of us.

[end]

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RENA'S EXPERIENCE

By: Rena Swifthawk

Summer is an important time for my people. It is the time when the grass, the fruits, and the vegetables grow, and Grandmother Earth brings forth the elements to feed her children. It is also the time of our sacred Sundance, which is our most important ceremony. Being a Native American Medicine Woman and Shaman, it is very important I attend this four day and four night holy ritual. I have never missed any part of this ceremony. However, this year I missed the first two days of Sundance in order to be in Trinidad, Colorado. Ten weeks earlier I was at the San Rafael Hospital in Trinidad to see Dr. Stanley Biber and undergo sexual reassignment surgery. This time I was in Trinidad to take part in and to witness the second birth of my life partner, Merissa Sherrill Lynn.

Among my people when a person chooses a life companion, that person's and the companion's circle become as one, and each becomes responsible for their companion. Also, among medicine people, doctoring takes precedence over all other things. When my life companion, Merissa, went to the hospital for her surgery, I both wanted and needed to be there with her. Also, I was a Medicine Woman, and while I was there I could pray for her, bless her, and doctor her.

My uncle Horace, one of the most powerful medicine men in the Southwest and one of my mentors, offered to come with me to pray and prepare me to perform sacred blessing ceremonies. On Tuesday afternoon, two days before Merissa's surgery, Horace and I left Ignacio, a small Indian reservation town in Southwest Colorado. It was only a four to five hour drive from Ignacio to Trinidad, but instead of following the map, we followed the Colorado road signs, and wound up taking the longest and slowest route possible. A four hour drive became a long frustrating eight hour drive. Merissa and I have a special connection, and as we went up, down, and around each and every mountain between us and our destination, I could feel her. As we rounded each bend in the road I could see her through the spirit of time and space, worrying and crying, full of fear because we weren't there yet. When I felt her crying, I also began crying. Hers were tears of worry, mine were tears of frustration and impatience. "How much further," I wondered, "must I travel before I would see the woman with the eyes that smile?" When we finally got there her smiling eyes were crying. Then she saw me, and they smiled once again.

The next day was a long reminder of my own experience just ten weeks before. First, we took Merissa to Dr. Biber's office for a final examination. While she was being examined I chatted with Dr. Biber's secretary, Marie, and constantly remembered how this moment was for me. It was like being a salmon swimming upstream to lay its eggs, to die, and in the process create new life ... an old person dying so a new person may live. We then went to the hospital to check Merissa in, and I remembered my own experience. To me the hospital was a womb, the home of my rebirth. I was home once again, this time for my companion's rebirth.

After Merissa was settled in, Uncle Horace and I went back to our hotel room to pray and prepare for the next day. I was to perform the ceremonies inside the hospital while Uncle supported me from outside. Before Merissa's surgery I was to perform a sacred blessing ceremony for her to prepare her spiritually to cross the great river of life. I was also to bless the hospital and its nursing staff to make the hospital spiritually clean and free of negativity. During her journey across the river, I was to go outside and pray with Uncle. After she had completed her journey I would be there to welcome her and to perform a healing ceremony. Uncle was far more qualified to perform these ceremonies, but his beliefs prevented him from entering the hospital. He was a very powerful Medicine Man trained in the old ways, and was uncomfortable performing his healing work inside a modern medical facility. However, I had been trained in both the old ways and the new ways, and did not feel the discomfort. Also, I had earned the right. (Among our people we believe that before anyone performs any ceremony, they must earn the right.) While I was in the hospital Uncle would be outside supporting me, which made me feel spiritually good and helped me do my healing work.

At six o'clock the next morning, Uncle and I were at the hospital. As I entered the hospital I remembered how I felt when my brother Russell, also a powerful Medicine Man, blessed me. I felt proud that a member of my family would be there for me, and I felt spiritually good and spiritually protected. As it was for me, so it would be for Merissa.

While walking down the hall I began to feel rushed. I didn't want to be late, and didn't want anything to go wrong. Then I got to her room, which was my room, opened the door and saw her lying there in her bed, which was my bed, all ready for surgery and I felt really good. Still, remembering how it was for me, I had mixed emotions over what she was going to go through the next nine days. She was on the last leg of the journey she had been on all her life. She was finally crossing that river and I felt good about that. Then I reflected on all those who had been in that same bed and had gone through the same thing on that same type of a morning and I felt honored to be there, to be able to do this for her. I felt fortunate for the gifts of time, money, transportation, and understanding that allowed me to be there. I thought about the things that were going through my mind just a half hour before my surgery and wondered what was going through her mind. I had to experience these mixed emotions so I could feel them out and get them out of my system so I could prepare myself to be spiritually as pure as possible to do the blessing.

The rest of Merissa's "entourage" (Nancy Cole, Mariette Allen, Sheila Kirk, Terri Johnson, and Renee Chevalier) arrived, and I began the ceremony. I don't remember much about the blessing, for when I prepared myself spiritually, I placed myself in a meditative state, and when I spoke, my spirit was above me. My body was serving as an antenna, a receptor for the Creator, and the sacred words spoken were the Creator's. Also, the procedures I used, such as smudging (purifying with the smoke of sweetgrass, sage, or cedar) and the use of sacred feathers, I had used countless times before. When the blessing was complete, I felt peace, because I knew everything was taken care of.

I accompanied Merissa to the operating room, then went outside to pray. While I prayed an eagle flew over the hospital. Eagles are dreamkeepers, and omen birds, very spirited birds, and when we see an eagle while we pray, it is good, it is powerful medicine. Also, while I prayed I felt in tune, in balance with the flowers, the trees, and the mountains, and I knew everything was going to be all right.

My time outside ended, as did Merissa's rebirth. She had crossed the great river and was on the other side where I was waiting. I blessed her once again, this time not to prepare her spiritually, but to use my medicine to seal her wounds and

prepare her for her new life. As I performed the blessing I felt the balance between the Medicine Way, a way that has protected my people for thousands of years, and modern medicine, the old and the new working together to preserve man on Grandmother Earth. I could feel the Creator smiling on us, and through the eyes of my heart I could see our reason for being. It is special people like us who hold the key to the balance of time and energy. Through being what we are we can know the balance of the female and the male. With this sight we become the new healers of what man himself has lost, the love of living harmoniously on the earth. Through our pain we can teach others to love. By breaking out of the closets that made us homeless on Grandmother Earth we open the doors that give us new life. Coming out of these dark places, we gain a sight that others cannot see.

After the blessing was completed, I stood looking at all the flowers and cards from Merissa's precious supporters, and thanked them in a good way. I then gave thanks to all my brothers and sisters who had been there for me, and had made my journey possible. Then I thought of those who had lain in the same beds and not had that support and love. I could feel their loneliness. While looking at Merissa, I saw the thousands who had gone before and felt their tears. I also felt their relief as their bodies were brought into congruence with their souls. I was both happy and sad.

For the rest of the day I was on a natural high. I had just play a part in my life companion's rebirth, and I had a powerful sense of accomplishment. However, my contribution was not yet complete. Renee Chevalier, Merissa's roommate, was to have her surgery the next day, and I was to bless her as well.

The next morning when I entered the room, Renee was prepped and ready. She look soft and sensual, but I knew she had the spirit of a warrior, a spirit like my own. I blessed her as I would a sister warrior. While I prayed in my ancient way, Renee prayed in her Christian way, and we were in harmony. She had not learned our ways, but still she had a way of knowing without the learning. Her specialness was obvious. She had concentrated on many roads of knowledge, and had walked many paths to wisdom. She lived many lives in her days, and now that she had full access to her female power, a high priestess has been born!

When I finished blessing Renee, my work in Trinidad was complete, and I finally had a chance to get to know three other members of Merissa's entourage, Mariette Pathy Allen, Nancy Cole, and Dr. Sheila Kirk.

The following day I spent with Mariette, who was a professional photographer from New York City, and a friend. Being with this special, beautiful woman, I learned how we special ones can affect those outside our community. Her acceptance and respect for us comes from her heart and from the center of her being, her soul. Mariette could dance with the flowers and soar with the eagles while smiling the smile of true harmony. I could see through her smile that she was a healer of spirit pain, one who knew the balance of love and

"I prayed in my ancient way, and she prayed in her Christian way, and we were in harmony. She had not learned our ways, but still she had a way of knowing without the learning." -- R.S.

"Oh, how I wish the entire world could see this. A Catholic and a Shaman, each praying in their own way, but in perfect harmony for a single purpose. If we could all pray in our own ways in harmony for a single purpose, we could heal the wounds of the world." -- MSL

"The Warrior's blessing brought back Nancy's tears, and filled me with awe. Is Rena really just a vehicle through which messages are conveyed?" -- MPA

of understanding. It was wonderful to see.

Nancy was a true humanitarian. She had a profound concern for both Merissa and Renee, and for the well-being of our community. With watery eyes she told me how important Merissa was to our people. Without Merissa, even Nancy, herself, would still be locked up in a closet of pain. She told me how important it was that I be Merissa's life partner, how Merissa's face became lighted with a thousand suns when we were together. She was concerned about everyone's comfort. She was constantly running out to get something else for someone else, always something to ease the way. If there is an entity on this Great Planet that is the Perfect Mother of Caring, it is Nancy Cole. She reminds me of a great chief who lived many years ago, who sacrificed himself so that his people might live.

To me Dr. Kirk was a living legend, a healer, someone with qualities only the most special of the special ones could possess. Every time I stood next to her, I could feel the presence of the ancient teachers of the north. In our tradition the ancient teachers of the north were our ancestors. They were the spirits who taught the Thunder Beings of the west, who are caretakers of the earth, providing rain where needed for life to grow. The ancient teachers gave breath to the Grandmothers of the south who brought warmth to our hearts.

They taught the Grandfathers of the east, who brought us the power of light. North is the direction of knowledge and wisdom. West is the direction of nurturing and growth. South is the direction of warmth. East is the direction of vision and light. Sheila is wise and knowledgeable. She is nurturing. She is warm and loving. She possesses vision. She has truly been blessed with the hands of the ancestors.

It was time for me to get back to my people, to the two days remaining in the Sundance. As I left Trinidad, I saw the Eagle, known in our ways as the dream keeper and the bird of omens. I stopped my car half way up the mountain and gave thanks to this wonderful being. With my arms held high to the sky, with the purifying herbs sage and sweetgrass, I turned towards Trinidad and thanked the Creator in a good way for bringing me there, and for six wonderful people in our community: Renee, Mariette, Nancy, Sheila, my life companion Merissa, and to me the most sacred of all, my daddy, Dr. Stanley Biber.

[end]

RAINBOWS OVER TRINIDAD . . OR, MERISSA AND HER FAMILY

by Mariette Pathy Allen

When I arrived at the Denver airport, people were rushing in all directions, but I saw no one I knew. As I made my way to the baggage claim area, I did my usual airport anxiety-calculations about what I would do if nobody showed up. Then, just as in most children's stories, a familiar figure appeared in the distance. Nancy, in her shorts, tee-shirt, and pony tail, part gym teacher, part Barbie Doll, shepherded me over to a rather hot and bedraggled Merissa, Sheila, and Terri.

My luggage sped away with Nancy and Merissa in a van. Sheila, Terri, and I followed in Terri's car. We lost the van at the first toll booth. With Terri's map of Colorado and her in-born sense of direction, my vague recollection that our destination was the Holiday Inn in Trinidad, and Sheila's calm poise, we finally caught up with the others at the hotel.

As we drove along, we were overwhelmed by the beauty of the countryside: the mountains, the deserts, rambling small towns, the westernness of it all. The sky was enormous, panoramic, everchanging in light and shade. It rained. The sun came out. It drizzled. The sky turned operatic. A brilliant rainbow arched across the firmament, more magnificent than any I had ever seen, and I said to myself, "Merissa will be fine."

That night held more surprises. Renee Chevalier drove in from California. She had come early to be with Merissa and to prepare for her own surgery, scheduled about a week after Merissa's. Now everyone was there except for Rena Swifthawk and her Uncle Horace, a powerful Native American Medicine Man, who were coming to bless Merissa and the hospital. We sat down to dinner as children splashed in the pool in the hotel lobby, but

we were not at ease. As it got later and Rena still wasn't there, Merissa's eyes began to fill with tears. The tension and anxiety were palpable. They finally walked through the door at ten pm. They had left late, not allowed enough time, and gotten stuck in traffic. When Merissa had dissolved in tears at dinner, Rena had been crying in the car, knowing how Merissa was feeling. With her bright clothes and flowing hair, Rena was another rainbow.

As we ate breakfast the next morning in Nancy's suite, a blessing started to come out of Uncle Horace. It was utterly unplanned, as if the words were escaping from his lips. He spoke for a long time, thanking Grandmother Earth and Grandfather Sky for the nourishment in our food, and the nourishment in the support and love we were giving to each other.

After the blessing, we all went to Dr. Biber's office. In his cozy, old-fashioned rooms, we met Marie, his caring and efficient assistant. Merissa went in for her final examination, while Renee checked in with Marie. We were concerned about Renee, how she would bear up after the support team left. We all thought that she should be Merissa's room-mate. Marie looked up the surgery schedule and announced matter-of-factly that the girl who had been scheduled for the day after Merissa had canceled. Coincidence, small miracle, after-effect of the rainbow, or fruits of Uncle Horace's blessing?

That afternoon, Merissa checked in to the Mt. San Raphael Hospital. It was attractive and modern, without looking sterile, with the best looking medical staff I'd ever seen. They were surprisingly friendly and caring. Merissa's room looked out over the mountains.

Merissa and Renee had to watch three video tapes: hospital orientation, medical procedures, and an interview between Dr. Biber and Marsha Botzer. (Marsha had her surgery over ten years ago, and is currently the director of the Ingersoll Gender Center in Seattle.)

We were an emotional bunch that evening. Nancy had been in silent tears all day, unable to speak about the pain she was in as she did everything possible for everyone else. Renee, who thought she had lots of time to get ready, was rushing around agitated and tense. Rena, who had completed her SRS ten weeks earlier, and Terri, who had completed hers seven years before, were reliving their own experiences, trying to do a balancing act between the present and the past. Sheila and I just clung to each other, not knowing what the future held, but knowing that it would be there when we got there! Merissa looked so soft and vulnerable, we felt reluctant to leave her.

We were up at five the next morning to be at the hospital by six. Rena gave the first of her four blessings. In her Native American ceremonial clothes, her face painted, feathers and sacred implements in her hands, she looked at Merissa, her eyes full of love, then out the window to face Grandfather Sky. She spoke as if the words came through her, as if she were just the vehicle for what the gods wanted said. She blessed Merissa and all the Special People. She spoke of all the sadness and the loneliness, the suffering that was alleviated by Western Medicine when it was used in a good way. She asked for blessings for the hospital, and for the staff, for Mother Earth, for the Fish People, and for the Rock People. As we stretched out our arms, she brushed us all with her feathers: Merissa, the nurses, the doctors, Sheila, and me.

Now in scrub clothes, I took pictures as Merissa was wheeled into the operating room. With its huge, circular overhead lights, four nurses, an anesthesiologist, and Dr. Biber all in their blue and green scrubs, I could see why these

rooms were called surgical theaters. There was something exciting and forbidding about it.

Now that I had taken Merissa's pictures, should I stay or go? She was sedated, breathing evenly, quite at peace. Sheila was observing from behind Dr. Biber and the nurses. I didn't want to leave. The suspense would be too hard. I put my camera bags down and sat in the changing room. After an endless wait, I came out to see what was happening. I walked to the doorway. The anesthesiologist beckoned me in. I crept up behind Sheila and touched her arm. We held each other as we watched Dr. Biber forming his creation. He was turning Merissa outside in. Lost in the sea of anatomy, I watched the cutting and stitching, as if they were doing a minute, intricate dance. They worked together. They talked of ranching and of rain, of local events, and the details of the surgery. At the end of three hours, Merissa's genital area looked smooth and even, the trauma to the body hidden inside. After watching the incredible rearrangement, I couldn't imagine how the body could heal so quickly. Dr. Biber had performed a miracle. The body is a miracle.

Rena thanked the spirits for getting Merissa through the operation, implored them to help in her recovery, to keep her free of infection, and to keep the environment healthy.

Tearfully, Rena asked them to help more human beings to hear the screams of Mother Earth, so they would stop hurting her. Only hours after the surgery, Merissa was coherent and happy. Surrounded by flowers of all persuasions, cards, stuffed animals, and a myriad of delicacies, Merissa started to absorb the love encircling her. "IFGE West, how can we help you?" was said into the phone to an endless stream of callers.

It was Renee's turn, now. She was anything but calm. "I'm a terrible patient," she said to anyone near enough to hear. Nancy bullied and teased her all afternoon, then held her hand most of the evening. Renee refused dinner, and was convinced that her sleeping pill would not work. Left to herself, Renee said, Goodby to the maleness of her body, and gave herself a peaceful night's sleep. On our way out to dinner, there was another huge rainbow across the sky. "Renee will fine, too!"

Rena gave Renee a special blessing the following morning. A Vietnam Veteran with traumatic war experiences, Rena saw Renee as a warrior in life. She told Renee to use her warrior's strength to go through this battle and help her body to heal. The Catholicism of Renee's childhood came back as she lay in bed, hands folded in prayer, listening to Rena. The Warrior's Blessing brought back Nancy's tears, and filled me with awe. Is Rena really just a vehicle through which messages are conveyed? Perhaps we are all vehicles. We just don't always know how to deliver the message.

When Sheila and I changed into our scrub suits, I knew I would stay and watch the procedure from beginning to end. I also knew I didn't have to worry about getting sick or fainting. This time I watched carefully as parts were removed, parts were recycled, shapes were carved, with respect and almost perfect knowledge of the way the body works.

We had just used the power of the ancient tradition, the power of Native American medicine. Now it was working in tandem with modern Western medicine, as practiced by an artist, to give peace to a warrior spirit. Renee never lost her color. "It's over! You did great!" She smiled back, looking radiant.

For the last time, Rena thanked her Grandmother Earth and Grandfather Sky. She asked for a safe and speedy healing, for a good day for all the creatures on this Earth, the Plant People and the Bird People, those of us who were there, those who would follow, and those who would follow and might be alone.

Rena and I went up into the mountains that afternoon. We roamed through old mining towns, ruins, lake resorts. We found an abandoned house built on a bridge over a stream. We found a man walking Tony, his horse, and a sign, "Stanley Biber for Commissioner."

When we came back into town on Main Street, there were three police cars pulled over. When I saw that it was Nancy, I parked farther down the block and got out to see what was happening. Sheila sounded neither gracious nor poised when she explained that they had gone the wrong way up a one way street. There was an edge to Nancy's voice when she said, "Go back to the car. Just stay there!"

After the police had gone, Nancy told us, "They didn't say anything about me not looking like the fellow on my driver's license. They just gave us a warning."

Sheila, still a little nonplussed, said, "I wanted to tell them there was no sign. That sign is invisible from this end of the street. Nancy was very calm. She just told me to be quiet."

"Imagine if we had to call Commissioner Biber to get them out of jail."

"Thank God for Stanley, period! He's the one who explained all this to the police department in the first place. Maybe that's why they were so cool."

After rising at five two mornings in a row, Rena, Nancy, and I decided to do it again, this time to watch the sunrise. Nancy had just bought a yellow, Mexican-style dress. It needed the sunrise lighting. We settled into the ruins of a stone quarry. I watched the light on Nancy's face. We could have been in ancient Greece, or Rome, or Egypt, it was so timeless, with the clear, golden light, and the sky going from grey to blue to grey again.

One night in 1908, a physician got stuck in a snow storm on one of the mountains overlooking Mt. San Rafael Hospital.

He spent the night next to a statue of the Virgin Mary on the mountaintop, and survived to tell the tale. The Ave Maria Shrine was built around the statue to commemorate the event. Nancy and I decided to end our photo shooting at this site where another miracle had taken place.

When we got back, nausea had set in, but otherwise, everything was okay. The sun streamed in the windows, shining through the clusters of flowers, casting shadows on the wall. Nancy had attached red and yellow victory bows on both IV's, and put sashes on the curtains. Sheila had watered all the plants, and cards and letters were taped over the walls facing the beds. This trip was an odyssey of love and support and abiding friendship, of communication with and without words, of the union of science and nature.

The usual announcements came over the loudspeaker on my plane back to New York. "The safety procedures . . . , the emergency exits . . . , the altitude . . . Thank you for flying with us!" I was letting it all float past me. "Your flight attendants have been Merissa and Renee. . . "

WHAT? Have they recovered so fast? Is this what Merissa thinks is 'service to the community'? I thought Renee hated uniforms. All this poured through my head as I looked around. Well, Merissa and Renee were, in fact, my flight attendants, but they were New Yorkers. Poetry? Synchronicity? Another rainbow?

[end]

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LIVING TO TELL, and TELLING TO LIVE

by
Nancy Reynolds

This is my story.
I tell it not because it is unique, but because it is the sort of story which is common in our community.

I
LIVING TO TELL

It's been ten years now since the day my world nearly stopped turning; it feels like a lifetime. Looking back to those days, I see a life of despair and loneliness. Stretching behind was a trail of broken relationships, abandoned dreams, and lost jobs; ahead, seemingly, lay more of the same. For years - in fact, virtually all of my life - I had lived with a secret which brought me shame and misery, ultimately pushing me to the brink of self-destruction. That secret, of course, was the desire to crossdress. Oh, I had tried to purge it from my life. And tried. And tried. No matter how many distractions, no matter how many promises, no matter how much I berated, kicked, and implored myself, that inexplicable need always returned. I felt like the world's biggest pervert, like some freak out of a carnival sideshow. Worse yet, I didn't just want to wear the clothes - I wanted to BE a woman! Talk about nuts - I figured I was deranged beyond all hope of salvation. I wondered how much longer it would be before that inevitable day of discovery, when surely I'd be humiliated beyond any shred of self-respect.

Occasionally I would get lucky, and meet an understanding woman with whom I could share this dreadful secret. At such times, I would be overcome with joy and gratitude at her acceptance, and for a brief time my life would be full of bliss. Sooner or later, though, she too would be repulsed, leaving me feeling more sick and depraved than ever. I was one sorry puppy, having a lot of no fun.

The years of self hatred and abuse built into an overwhelming burden. Needing to somehow escape my prison of shame and deceit, I moved to Los Angeles, 3000 miles from home, to try and get my life on track. The move, however, only increased my sense of isolation and deepened my misery. I came to care so little for the life which was proving so bitter that I treated it with casual, sometimes pointed disregard. Flirting with danger on the back of a motorcycle, I figured if I had an accident I'd just die, and so have no worries. No big deal, eh? Heck, I'd probably be better off!

I couldn't have imagined how badly I underestimated both the strength of my life force, and the love of those around me.

It was a beautiful sunny Sunday morning, a few days before my 28th birthday. In a few hours, friends would be arriving at my home for a birthday party in honor of myself and another friend, whose birthday came a few days before mine. As I often did, I mounted my BMW R90S motorcycle for a brisk morning ride. This was no ordinary bike - no BMW is - and I'd recently customized this one with gun-metal-grey metal flake finish, tasteful blue and white pin-striping, black pipes, and trick mirrors. It was a hot machine, and I enjoyed making it scream. Heading north from LA, it carried me up to an infamous stretch of roadway in the mountains above La Canada, known as the Angeles Crest highway.

Pushing the limits of self and machine through the dangerous and twisty narrows between cliff wall on one side and sheer drop on the other, I rode the fine line between heart-stopping excitement and disaster. It was a satisfying morning; I'd made triple digits where the curves stretched out a bit, and smirked at a police car looking for something it could catch. Turning back towards LA, I headed down the final descent towards the city below. I remember seeing another bike in a turnout where the rider and his passenger had stopped to take in the panoramic view, and then nothing.

The next thing I remember is lying on my back in a bed, looking up at strangely unfamiliar yellow walls and ceiling. I thought, "What am I doing in bed? I don't remember getting here. And what's with the walls and ceiling? I don't remember my bedroom being yellow!". Feeling groggy, as if coming out of a deep sleep, I couldn't see much, but could hear that there was someone else in the room.

Then I heard my mom's voice, softly: "Jack...Jack - it's your mother. Dad's here too. Do you know where you are?"

Fuzzy as everything was, I felt elated at a visit from my parents. But what were they doing here? I didn't know they were coming to LA! "Hi mom! What are you doing here? Did you see my new van outside?"

"Jack, " she replied, "you're in the hospital; you've been in an accident."

This was obviously a weird dream. I couldn't seem to wake up, so I went back to sleep. I'd wake up later, hopefully in a more pleasant state.

Well, when I started waking up again, it was more of the same. My mom was there, telling me I'd been in an accident, and my dad was there too, although I don't remember him saying much. It was all very fuzzy, but warm and cozy. I couldn't think straight, and I couldn't see much. I kept trying to figure out what had happened to my room, and how I came to be there.

Eventually, I had to concede that I was indeed in the hospital. I remembered having been out for a ride on the mountain, but couldn't remember anything bad happening. I didn't feel any pain; instead, I felt light-hearted and peaceful. My brain felt groggy, and my body - well, I just wasn't aware of it at all. I could turn my head a bit and talk, but that was about all. I wondered "What's going on here? What happened to me?". The thought of having been in an accident was too scary to contemplate.

Days passed; I woke only occasionally and briefly. I felt no pain, and had no idea of the extent of my injuries. On Friday my best friend John appeared. I told him I'd be out of the hospital in a week or two. After all, I wasn't hurting; why should I be there any longer? He said little.

A week later I was moved from the intensive care ward. The world darkened as my parents left for home, I lost the company of the abundant and playful nurses, and the pain started. The realization that I was not going home soon set in as I found out what had happened to me.

I met the medical evacuation team that brought me down off the mountain, and read the police report of what had happened. Apparently, I came around a corner too fast, and lost control. Crossing the center line, I hit an approaching VW head-on. I suffered deadly abdominal injury, and my right arm and leg were severely mangled.

Within moments of the accident, as I was lying on the ground in a fast-growing pool of blood, a car pulled up and out jumped an off-duty nurse and her friend, a police officer. She controlled the bleeding while he radioed for a 'copter. Together they saved my life. The medical evacuation team told me I was as bad a case as they'd seen survive. They had to use a special inflatable body suit to hold me together while they moved me; most people they'd used it on didn't live.

As I listened to their story of my brush with death, I felt a curious sensation. I wasn't horrified, or saddened. Instead, I felt somehow cheated. I had often wished for rebirth into a woman's body; now here I was, reborn into a crippled body.

Both my arm and leg needed work, but I was running a high fever. The doctors said that they didn't want to operate until the fever was gone because of risk of infection. I waited, trying to ignore everything.

My parents arranged for my long-distance girlfriend (from Boston) to visit me. I welcomed her presence, but couldn't let her get close to me; I was too busy trying to shut it all out. She spent a frustrating week watching me. When it came time for her to leave, we fought. She told me that the doctors had almost cut off my leg, and were waiting to see if I lived before wasting any more effort on me. She said that they were not taking good care of me, and that I had better wake up and take control of what was happening to me.

She got my attention. Almost immediately, the fever broke; I began taking charge of my recovery. I negotiated goals with my doctors; the needed surgeries were finally performed. The long physical recovery began in earnest. The emotional recovery, however, was still to come.

As time passed, I wondered about what had happened to me. Through some miracle, fate, or coincidence, the two people I needed to save my life - the medical person who could keep me alive, and the officer with the radio who knew how to summon the right kind of help - happened by at just the right time. People repeatedly told me how lucky I was to be alive, but when I agreed with them, I felt hollow, as though I was merely paying lip service. Inside, I wasn't sure I had been so lucky. After all, a clean death would have been preferable to the life of pain and disability which the doctors were now predicting for me. And that life had been anything but happy before - what were my prospects now?

Weeks passed; I lay in the hospital alternating between bliss and agony as the painkilling drugs were administered and wore off. In the midst of this ordeal, something magical happened. I received more love and attention than I could ever recall, most of if from people I had never met before. I was truly moved by this; the world, after all, seemed not such a cold place. People were friendly, and had come to my rescue when I needed it most.

Their love gave me new power, and I tended my recovery with interest. As I exceeded the doctors' predictions about what was physically possible, my confidence grew, and I began to feel optimistic. Here I was, starting all over again with a new (if damaged) body, growing new capabilities with daily practice. Anything seemed possible.

Maybe it was the feeling that if I could survive a brush with death, I could survive anything lesser, like people knowing that I get off on crossdressing. Or maybe it was the feeling that I'd been given a second chance; that the rest of my life is sort of a bonus, an opportunity to do something extra. Or maybe I'm alive for a reason - my life truly has some purpose, and I have not yet attained it, whatever it might be. Whatever the reason, I resolved to change my life. I had put my body back together - time now for my head. Time for a little more honesty, both with myself and with the world around me.

Once again, help would find me.

II
TELLING TO LIVE

When the hospital finally released me, I returned to my home in Silverlake, a pleasant community in the hills near downtown LA. I was renting a room in a modest home, and had two roommates. The woman who owned the house, Eve, was a petite, practical, and friendly woman in her late 50s. She had flame-red hair, a lively wit, and a vivacious lifestyle. She was my biggest supporter during my recovery; she was both good friend and mother to me. My other roommate, Heather, was a tall, athletic woman in her mid 20s, studying dentistry at USC. She was bright, charming, and attractive; everything I wanted to be. The three of us got along extremely well, frequently sharing in life's little pleasantries, and occasionally doing a night at the ballet. It was the happiest living situation I'd ever experienced.

One evening, I was enjoying Eve's company over a chance dinner together at home, when her voice took on a warm, but purposeful tone.

"You know, John, when the policeman came to the door to tell us about your accident, he asked for your parent's phone number. And neither Heather nor I had it. Of course we had to look for it in your room."

I drew in a quick breath, and my heart stopped. But when I met her eyes, and they were friendly and respectful. She paused a beat, and went on.

"We didn't mean to invade your privacy, but it took us quite a while to find it. We ended up looking just about everywhere before we found it."

Her smile was genuine, almost sympathetic, and her eyes sparkled a bit. My heart calmed, and I felt a surge of love and respect for this woman who had been so incredibly kind to me already. I gave her my warmest smile, a slight nod, and replied "No problem, Eve. I really appreciate everything you've done for me."

And with that, our conversation continued on to other matters. But my thoughts lingered behind.

Over the following few weeks my mind churned in the background. Eve and Heather had to have found women's clothes - much of it underwear - in their search. Clearly, they knew about my crossdressing. Somehow, that knowledge made me feel good! But, I wondered if that pleasure was in itself some kind of perversion. I thought, "Maybe I'm just getting off on their knowledge of what a pervert I truly am! Maybe I'm just enjoying a new form of self abuse." But I couldn't take these thoughts seriously. Somehow, I was feeling less like a pervert and more like a loveable and respectable (if unusual) human being. After all, here were two friends (not sexual partners) who had learned my deepest, darkest secret, yet still treated me as a respected friend! Maybe, just maybe, that secret wasn't so dark after all!

Encouraged by my roommate's reactions, I thought about the feelings and behavior which forced me to hide myself from others, making me feel ashamed. Fear of discovery was a frequent companion. I feared discovery because of how those whom I cared about might regard me - or themselves be hurt - should my secret be revealed to them in all its deviant glory. Yet I'd found friends who could accept both that secret and myself. Living in fear of discovery was getting old; clearly, some people could handle my crossdressing. What about the rest? Only one way to find out, scary though that was.

For the first time, I sought help, and consulted a psychologist. He told me that I was the first crossdresser he'd met. I told him of my fears, and that I was considering sharing my secret with my parents. He warned against it, saying "once you've told them, you can never un-tell them". Later, when I visited him dressed, he made a pass at me; I guess that helped render his advice just a tad suspect.

Why not tell? Why continue to put my loved ones at risk to the malice of others? Better the whole world should know; I could learn to live with that. The worst that could happen couldn't be worse than what I'd just been through. Besides, my expectations were a little reduced now. I no longer had to be exceptional in order to gain acceptance - just being alive was enough to justify my existence. If I wanted to be a transvestite, and that reduced someone else's esteem for me, what difference? I'd already thrown it all away - anything I got back now was gravy!

So I resolved to tell both family and close friends that I am a transvestite, and that I might indeed one day choose to live the remainder of my life as a woman. I stood at the cliff,

and prepared to jump.

I particularly feared the reaction of my family. I could stand to lose friends - my closest friend had known and accepted for years; other friends mattered less, and I could find new friends if necessary. But you only get one family, and they're yours for life. So if they decided not to accept me, they could make my life even more miserable than it already was. They had recently demonstrated their love during my recovery, so I had reason for hope. But I struggled with indecision and fear.

I was still living in LA at the time, and visited my folks in Boston two or three times a year, generally at holidays. It was springtime, I don't remember exactly when, and I was home for a visit. Although we hadn't always gotten along real well, I loved my family. My parents were in their mid 60s; Dad was working part-time as a consultant, and Mom tended to her flowers and various community-based charitable activities. They were both well-informed, and especially interested in helping those less fortunate than themselves. One sunny day, I walked into the kitchen and, seeing my Mom there, wished her a cheerful good morning. After the usual exchange of pleasantries (it's easy to be pleasant when you live 3,000 miles away and visit only twice a year), she proceeded, as she likes to do, to tell me about an interesting talk show that she had heard the day before.

"You know, Jack, I heard a very interesting talk show yesterday. It was all about transvestites..." My ears jumped to attention; I must surely have stopped dead in my tracks. She continued, "... and I was really surprised. I never understood why anyone would want to do something like that, and I always thought that there was something wrong with anyone who did. But there's nothing wrong with these people; they're not hurting anyone. For the first time, I think I have some understanding and sympathy for these people." Well, twist my arm and I'll agree to anything! "Yes", I agreed, "there's nothing wrong with someone just because they want to wear women's clothes!"

Well, I saw my opportunity, and within a few days I told her all about myself. I picked a time when we were alone together and would not be interrupted, and when neither of us was particularly busy so that we could both be unhurried. I was careful to make it clear that I did not consider my gender conflict to have been caused by either her or my father, and that there was no point in trying to assess blame; no amount of digging into the past will change the present, so I'm content to leave it be. I told her that I loved her and that I wanted her to know about my crossdressing for her own protection, and also because it was an inseparable part of me, however much unhappiness it might have caused me. I assured her that she need never deal with it directly, that I would always respect her wishes and would never expect her to want to see me in feminine attire.

She received it well. She had known for a long time that I was not a happy camper, but never understood why. She was more concerned about my health and happiness than about an unusual behavior, and said as much. She felt lucky to still have me around; and as long as I wasn't hurting someone else, she said, she didn't see any reason why I shouldn't do as I please. Imagine my relief! My love for her grew greatly that day.

Although my mother counseled against it, fearing what his reaction might be, I shortly thereafter told my father as well. Again, I was careful to pick a time to talk when we could be alone and unhurried; it turned that we talked while sitting in the car, in the driveway, at the conclusion of an errand together. He listened attentively while I told him that I held no blame, and wasn't looking for anything from him other than to allow me to get something off my chest which had been bothering me awhile. I stressed that I was telling him so that he could be prepared in case someone should find out and confront him with it; that is, I was thinking first of his well-being and telling him because I love him and wanted to protect him from the shock and/or embarrassment of hearing it first from someone else, particularly someone who might try to use the information to their advantage. I told him that my expectation was that he would find this revelation difficult to accept, and that I would certainly have no difficulty understanding if that should turn out to be the case.

Well, I couldn't have been more wrong. He was as loving, as accepting, and as supportive as I could ever have wished for. Although he mentioned that he didn't want to see me that way, it was to me a minor return that I could give him for the tremendous love he had shown me in stating his acceptance and continued love and support for me in the light of this new revelation. My love and respect for him was renewed that day.

I went on to tell my brothers and sisters, and one aunt with whom I am particularly close. My eldest brother, a very proper man with children, received the information a bit stiffly, and has never mentioned the subject again, although our relationship has been essentially unchanged. My Aunt counseled caution, then went on to tell me the story of a woman friend whose husband had a sex change. "Three years later he died of a heart attack, but those three years were the happiest years of their lives!". The others all expressed love and support in a variety of ways, and have respected my privacy, avoiding causing me any embarrassment or difficulty. From time to time, the subject comes up, and I generally enjoy answering whatever questions they ask.

The relief that came with 'coming out' to my family was substantial, but incomplete. Something was still missing. Years passed; I moved back to the Boston area. Although I no longer suffered the intense feelings of guilt and shame, I still suffered from my desires. I found myself not going out on weekends, so that I could crossdress at home. And sometimes there would be a knock at the door which I could not answer because I was crossdressed. It seemed like crossdressing was contributing to my social problems, by separating me from

others. And I knew that I wanted to be closer to others. I had tried quitting crossdressing again, but that didn't work. So I became depressed. There seemed no way out. I couldn't quit it, and it was keeping me alone.

One day, in a pamphlet of publications aimed at satisfying various unusual sexual needs, I came across a brief description of TAPESTRY, which was extolled as a dignified journal for crossdressers. Although it sounded too good to be true, I sent away for it, a move that was to have profound impact on my life.

When I received my first copy, I knew I'd found what I had been looking for. Here were other people like myself; people searching for self respect in a world which accords mainly ridicule. Emboldened by this discovery, I thought about attending the Fantasia Fair, an event I'd known about for years but had never been able to muster the courage to attend. Fortunately, I was able to talk about it with friends and family, all of whom encouraged me to go. So, I finally got up the courage, made the necessary phone calls to get myself registered, and started shopping for the clothes I would need. I worried how I would feel at seeing a bunch of men dressed as woman. Would it feel like hanging out with a bunch of weirdos, and leave me feeling more like a weirdo than ever? Was I someone who wouldn't want to be a member of any club that would have them as a member? Or would I be able to enjoy myself, maybe even finding friendship and self respect?

October finally rolled around, and I found myself welcomed into the Admiral's Landing, a guest house apparently catering to gay men. I had arrived at about 8 PM on the first Friday evening; I figured I'd attend the 'come as you are' cocktail hour in male drag, as it would take me forever to get dressed, and surely by the time I did so the event would be over. Mistake! I was the only person - other than bartenders - not in female attire. And several folks greeted me with the revelation "You're not dressed!", heightening my feelings of extreme discomfort. Fortunately, I was rescued by a gracious lady (thank you, Gwyneth!) and enjoyed dinner with several others who made me feel welcome, even if I was out of uniform. Despite their efforts, though, I went to bed that evening wondering if I had made a mistake in attending the Fair.

The following morning, I agonized endlessly with dress and makeup. Finally, nervous as could be, I emerged from my room. I was relieved to find the common areas empty, and slipped out of the house without seeing anyone. The walk to the orientation breakfast seemed endless, but I was buoyed by the sight of other crossdressers obviously heading the same way. Of course, I was too shy to talk with any of them. Once inside the restaurant, though, everything changed. People were friendly and outgoing, and I was part of the group. Within minutes of my arrival there, my anxieties started dissipating; within tens of minutes, I was enjoying myself. The rest of my week was pure bliss. I was finally able to live full time as a woman, as I'd long dreamed. It felt to me as if I was finally given my freedom after a lifetime in prison. As one sister put it, "What you've got is Gender Euphoria, honey!" Well, for once I could happily agree. I had finally found my place.

All too soon, the week passed. As the final evening drew to a close, and the specter of abandoning my newfound world grew nearer, I was overcome with a tremendous sense of sadness and loss. I felt like Cinderella, knowing that the ball was over, returning to the cinders with no rescue in sight. After the awards dinner, I joined my sisters from the Admiral's Landing for a final drink together at a local night spot. I felt very sad and lonely, and withdrew from the group. As we left, Leia asked what was wrong; in answer, I turned to her and tears started running down my cheeks. She took me into her arms, and I cried my heart out. She and the others took me back to the house, and I cried for what seemed like hours while they comforted me. The next morning, I cried some more over goodbyes.

Returning to my regular life was a wrench, but it was softened by the fact that many of my friends and family knew where I'd been, and were interested to hear of about my experience. With bolstered confidence, I widened the circle of associates who knew of my 'hobby'. I became active in the crossdressing community. For the first time ever, crossdressing was not a barrier, but a bridge.

That's my story. Over the years, I tried a variety of solutions to my 'problem'. From trying to quit, to living with abandon, to telling friends and family, each attempt was a necessary step. But none relieved the hurt inside. When I reached out to my sisters, my community, my friends, and said "I belong here!", this changed. With these words I finally reached the one person who needed to hear them the most -- me. I finally made it possible for peace to find a home in my heart.

[end]

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INTRODUCING RENA SWIFTHAWK

Introductory Comments
By: Merissa Sherrill Lynn

Rena is a Kiowa and Chiricahua Apache Medicine Woman currently living a traditional Native American lifestyle on the Southern Ute Reservation in Southwest Colorado. She is also a Mahoe (berdache) who underwent sexual reassignment surgery in May, 1991. I first met Rena at our national convention held last April in Denver. Rena was to be a presentor, and having a natural affinity for Native American traditions, I was looking forward to meeting her. However, before I knew who she was I met her and felt an immediate connection with her childlike playfulness, a playfulness that matched my own. It took us approximately ten seconds to become friends. I was very surprised when I found out who she was, and even more surprised when I gained insight into the power of her spirit. Throughout the convention it became obvious that a power beyond our own put us in that couch together at that precise moment in both our lives. Like Rena, I also had a spiritual nature. Also like Rena, I have dedicated my life to helping others. There was a reason for us to meet. Since the convention Rena and I have decided to become life companions and devote ourselves to helping each other fulfill our reasons for being. It is an honor for me to be able to introduce Rena Delores Singing Springwater Swifthawk. I love her and believe in her more than I can say.

-- Merissa Sherrill Lynn

COMMENTS

By: Rena Swifthawk

It is not my intention to tell you my life story. That will come at a different time through a different medium. Instead, I would like to share with you some of the events that helped shape my life, and give you some insight into my life's work.

Medicine people have always been a fundamental part of the Native American side of my family's history. For instance, my blood father was a very powerful medicine man who abandoned my family before I was born in order to pursue his holy path. His brother, my Uncle Horace, is one of the most powerful and respected medicine men in the Southwest, and continues to be one of my most important mentors. However, because I was being raised in a non-traditional way, my path as a medicine person did not become clear to me until my thirteenth birthday, and even then I was not able to follow my path for many years.

From the time I was born I had a very feminine nature, a feminine appearance, and a spiritual specialness that no one could explain. Uncle Horace knew, but he did not tell me. Throughout my childhood being that way was never a problem for me. It was, however, a very big problem for my macho-minded and intolerant stepfather. Not only was he intolerant, he was anglo, harbored a strong prejudice against indians, and had no respect for traditional ways. From my earliest childhood I knew the ugly realm of the closet.

Before I continue, I would like to explain something about the concept of the traditional Native American family. There are no orphans among traditional people. Elders are respected, they are the teachers, and often called grandfathers or grandmothers. People who accept the responsibility to help raise the children are often called

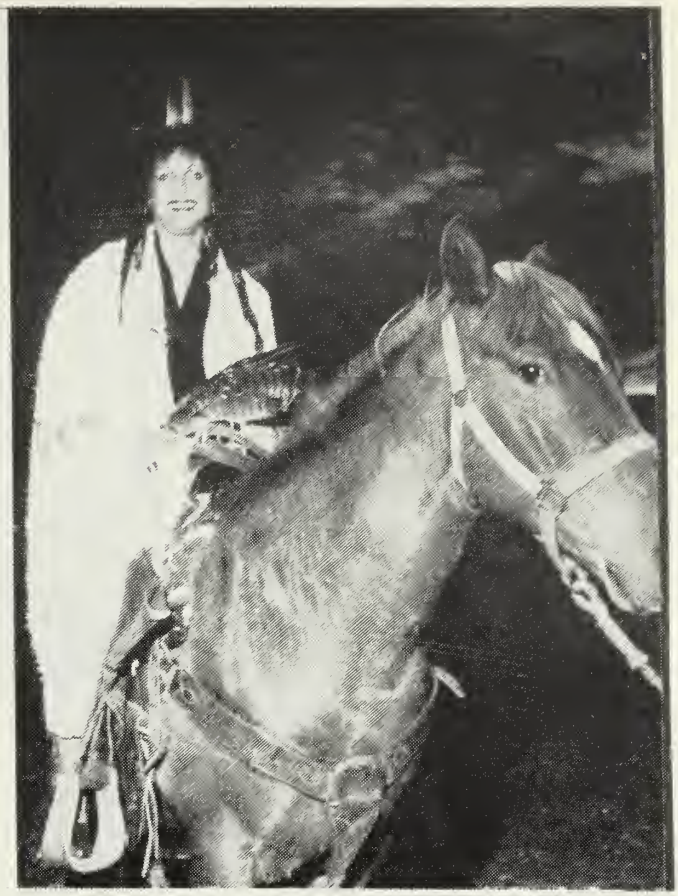


photo credit: Mariette Pathy Allen

uncles and aunts. Peers are often called brothers and sisters. As a traditional Native American I have many grandfathers and grandmothers and uncles and aunts and brothers and sisters. I am never alone, nor will I ever be abandoned.

Another thing I want to explain is traditional Native Americans respect people in accordance to their spirit, and not whether or not they conform to established social doctrine. Therefore a Maho, or berdache, such as myself is going to find greater support and respect among traditional people, than others may find in the dominant society.

Because I was being raised by non-traditional people, I was denied traditional family values, and respect for my spirit. Then, on my thirteenth birthday, I visited Native American relatives in Southern Arizona. It was a special kind of day, and I could feel the energy even as I woke. In the east Grandfather Sun shone with a brightness I had never seen before, and in the west great thunderheads rolled over the horizon looking like kachinas (Hopi spirits) dancing in the sky. The mountains and trees connected me to the Great Grandmother Earth I stood upon. Still, while among all these great gifts, I felt a spiritual sadness.

There was a sense of unbalance on this Grandmother Earth, and I felt a great loss had come to the planet. I knew the people were not living in harmony with all the elements on this Earth. My grandfather, who was a Medicine Man, came to me. When I spoke to him about this sense of imbalance, he said, "You are right, Little One, and it is good that you feel this way." As he spoke, a red-tailed hawk flew overhead. He told me, "The Bird People have come to bless you, and they are a spirit connected with me." I felt so good that tears came to my eyes.

Grandfather told me that I was special, that I possessed a gift that no one else in the family had. When I asked him what this gift was, he told me that I already knew. He reminded me that I had talked about the past, how people had been a long time ago, and that I had spoken of Grandmother Earth not being in balance with the people on this planet. He said the Creator had sent very different people to all the tribes, and that these people were born with this special gift that Grandmother Earth needed. He said it was the true balance of man and woman. He offered no further comment, and I did not understand, but he was the catalyst that started me on my path.

When I was fourteen my stepfather decided to make a "man" of me, and took me to a doctor who began giving me male hormones. I didn't know why I was being given these pills. I didn't even know what they were, but as a result my muscles grew, my voice deepened, and my face and body became covered with hair. I took up boxing. However, the more masculine I became the more out of balance I felt.

Through my teen years, as my sense of imbalance grew, I often thought about my grandfather's words, and wondered about the true balance of man and woman, and about my specialness. I still did not know what he meant, but as I grew older, I seemed to develop a special healing knowledge, and people of all ages came to me for help. I didn't understand where this healing knowledge came from, but I knew it was a very special gift, and always respected it.

By the time I was seventeen I was very lost, and my stepfather knew it. He told me I had to join the Army, and that would make a "man" of me. So, in 1967, at the height of the Vietnam War, I went into the service. While in Vietnam, the burden of my gender conflict got too heavy to carry, and I tried to commit suicide. In the process trying to end my life, I saved six of my fellow-soldiers, and was honored with a Silver Star for my bravery. Of course, they had no idea what I was trying to do, but, as it has been said before, "The Creator works in ways strange to us."

At this time I would like to explain something about training to be a shaman. One of the methods of learning is to place oneself in a place that is particularly receptive to spiritual forces, such as a river, or mountain, or cave. After my discharge from the service I returned to Arizona and went into a great canyon to live and to learn for one year. While there I lived in caves, on the canyon walls, in trees, and by the river. During that year I spiritually experienced a lifetime of knowledge. I walked with herds of antelope. I came upon mountain lions and the sense of peace in their hearts came into me from their eyes. I often went to sweat lodges to pray and to center myself. I climbed to the high rims of the canyon walls and was at eye-level with the eagles and the hawks. When I entered the canyon I felt greatly out of balance with the center of the earth. When I left the canyon I was back in balance with the earth, or, as we Indians say, with Grandmother Earth.

Another method of learning was to simply wander, but wander in a constantly meditative and aware state. For two years after I left the canyon I wandered all over the United States. I stayed with different religious organizations, cults, and groups throughout the land. All the time I struggled to remember my purpose on the earth as I worked to prepare myself to walk my path. During my travels I met an elder lady in New Hampshire. While with her I received the gift of the Light of Love and Laughter from the Creator. This is what is known as the White Light, one of tools I needed to do my work.

After leaving New Hampshire, I had amazing experiences healing people, and I thought to myself, "What power!" Then for a split second I thought how I could use that power for profit. Well, the knowledge and power I had were gifts from the Creator to the Ancestors of the North (our spiritual teachers and wise ones), who in turn gave them to me to serve humanity. If I was to be a shaman, which had been my quest since the age of thirteen, I had to accept the responsibility for maintaining a balance between humanity, the natural world (Grandmother Earth) and the world of the sacred powers, and accept that responsibility without thought of personal profit. Not only did I have thoughts of personal profit, I was not in balance with myself. If I was not in balance with myself I could not accept the responsibility for maintaining a balance between humanity, the natural world, and the sacred powers. It was obvious that I wasn't ready to be a shaman. I could not yet walk down the road of shamans and medicine people. I was only twenty-two years old, and there was so much more I needed to learn. I was saddened by the reality, but grateful for the awareness.

I never wanted to further trash Grandmother Earth with false ways, or any uncleanliness. I didn't want to join the invaders of respect and love and the balance of life.

After my two years of wandering, I returned to Arizona, got married, began making jewelry, and went to college to become a better craftsman. For twelve years I lived the life of an ordinary and financially successful citizen. Yet, important things happened that kept me on my path. For example, I accidently splashed a jewelry oxidizing agent made of hydrochloric acid and selenium into my eyes, and I was blinded. After four months of treatments, the doctors told me I would never see again. Then Uncle Horace reminded me that I was a special person, and told me to tap into those things that I had learned. I began doctoring myself and I regained my

eyesight overnight. The doctors said it was medically impossible. Another example happened one day while I was working at my jewelry stand. I accidentally knocked over a propane tank and it exploded. The explosion blew me against the ceiling and I was knocked unconscious. When I regained consciousness I was engulfed in flames and my house was an inferno. I escaped, only to find that I was completely untouched. I had just walked out of a furnace, and I wasn't even singed. I heard my wife screaming from the kitchen, and ran back through the flames to save her. When I got to her she kept on screaming. Later, I learned she was screaming because she thought I was dead. She kept screaming because I wasn't. I knew then that I did indeed have a very special gift.

Throughout the twelve years of my marriage I worked hard to be a good husband and a financially successful person. Yet, my desire to follow my path and the need to express my femininity grew stronger and stronger. I spent time with several different Medicine teachers, furthering my knowledge of the Medicine Way. I attended and gave lectures on spiritual ways. Then I learned I had Klinefelter's syndrome (hermaphrodite) (which was why my stepfather had me take male hormones). Finally, I knew, and that knowledge freed me to find my balance, and work towards coming to grips with my spiritual life. It also helped me realize that if I was to achieve balance, it would have to be as a woman.

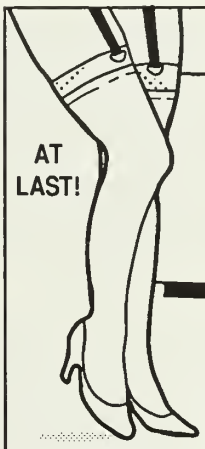
After my divorce in 1985, I became involved in spiritual ceremonies such as the sacred Sundance, the Beardance, and the Gourd Dance. I became a fire walker, and ran ceremonies in the Native American Church. Once again I sought the very special road that only Shamans dare to walk.

It took me most of my life to realize that my power of understanding the sacred ways could only be fully obtained as a female. In 1988 I began my transition from male to female. On May 2nd, 1991, I became female. Finally, I am in balance with myself, and have accepted the responsibility of maintaining a balance between humanity, the natural world, and the sacred powers. I have achieved my life's ambition. I am a Shaman.

I devote my life, my knowledge, my gifts of healing, my understanding of the Ancient Traditions, and my love, to the people of this planet and to my sisters and brothers in the CD/TS community.

At this time, I want to tell you in a good way, that I love you.

[end]



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The following article was edited from the keynote address delivered by Betty Ann Lind during the 'VP Award' ceremony, at IFGE's 5th annual 'Coming Together' convention, Saturday, April 13, 1991.

Betty Ann was the 5th recipient of the 'Virginia Prince Lifetime Contribution Award', the highest award offered by the CD/TS community. Betty Ann has been serving our community since 1964 when she co-founded the Minnesota chapter of FPE. She has also served as the Mid-Atlantic coordinator for Tri-Ess from 1976-1980, and has been the editor and publisher of 'Our Sorority' from 1978 to present. She served as the coordinator for Fantasia Fair, and is on the Outreach Institute and the IFGE Board of Directors. Before her speech, Betty Ann was asked what message she might convey. She replied, "Strength through unity."

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

By: BETTY ANN LIND

'Coming Together' Convention
Saturday, April 13, 1991

Opening Remarks:

Thank you very much for this most significant recognition for past efforts. When I entered this community there were no such awards. Which was most unfortunate, since far too many excellent leaders have served our community at great personal expense and have left our community unrecognized, and often bitter. This award, and its companion Trinity awards is a step in the right direction. I also believe that we should do a little "Russian History" and clean up the past by recognizing those from our past who deserve recognition. It is my hope that this award system will be open to the gay and straight community, to the theater arts, and so forth.

Organization of Speech:

I shall endeavor to organize this speech along the structure of the Convention's Program, and my theme shall be the *Cultural Tree, or Totem, of Crossdressing In Western Civilization.* I would have preferred to have picked a lighter topic; but, I fear that this one has been left untouched too long. And our Paraculture, as a parallel sub-culture (having its own distinct history, art, and literature) with its roots deep within the Culture of Western Civilization is being ignored, at peril, in favor of current CD community egocentric values, values that attack our Culture from a "minority" point of view, rather than recognize the positive position that the roots of our Culture provides for crossdressing. We are often like a child kicking at our parents, because we do not understand the Big Picture.

I. Enjoying Colorado:

This is my third time to visit Colorado. During the two previous times I reached a major plateau in my life and I was forced to make a major choice that radically changed my life's journey. For life is a journey, with many possible destinations other than the one we may wish.

My first tour of Colorado during 1954 and 1955. It was as a professional female impersonator, under a different stage name, as a part of what might be described as a "supper club" show consisting of an MC magician, three women one step away from "Carny Shows", and three female impersonators. As a sort of "*Cherchez la femme*" we toured the Cornbelt Circuit via various straight clubs from Chicago to Denver. We were not considered an FI Show, and we were union card holders.

At that time my distinctions between my gender (*points at head*), sex (*points at crotch*), and sex preference (*points at heart*) were very fuzzy. I knew I was bi-sexual, and I did think of myself as a sort of transsexual (ala Christine Jorgensen). And therefore, after two traumatic love affairs with women, I fell in love with a man. My forced choice situation was to get castrated (for him), or go into the service. I went into the service.

My second tour of Colorado was at Camp Hale, at the Mountain and Cold Weather Training Command, in 1958. As a "Mud & Cold Water" training officer I qualified as fifth place in the US Biathlon Ski Team for the Winter Olympics in Switzerland. My forced choice was first go to Switzerland then remain with the command as it was transferred to Alaska (! After almost two years of service under a canvas roof!), or train basic trainees. I took the latter and applied for language school. After receiving the highest score on the language aptitude test in the 5th Army, I applied for French, Vietnamese, and Chinese. In 1959 it was clear to me where we were heading. I was told that there was no future need for such languages. So I got out of the Army (and Colorado), before such stupid men got me killed!

The five recipients of the 'Virginia Prince Lifetime Contribution Award'
L-R: Merissa Lynn, Betty Ann Lind, Virginia Prince, Ariadne Kane, Sr. Mary Elizabeth

Now, here I am in Colorado a third time. What will the "forced choice" be now?

II. Getting In The Mood.

Crossdressing as an Insight Process

I believe that the crossdresser evolves through a complex social "insight" process from a genetic, and hence hormonal trigger prior to birth. Psycho/sociologically the insight process goes through five stages: **I.** Preparation (Socialization, with the presentation by society of a stereotype, or archetype, for CD behavior presented often at the unconscious level); **II.** Renunciation and regression (denial of stereotype, or archetype, behavior by dissonance matrix extremes -machismo/feminine or purging/dressing); **III.** Relaxation (avoiding self image by substitution - "workaholic", or other escape through addiction); **IV.** Forced choice (heart attack, or similar event, on the Thomas Holmes "*Social Readjustment Rating Scale*" that `measures' stress usually at mid-life, or earlier, which forces the individual to reevaluate life choices - in Native American cultures the "forced choice" might occur at initiation, i.e. Berdache "Moon-Being" choice between bow and arrow or squaw's pack strap.); and, **V.** Revelation (the sudden conscious acceptance of the idea that one is a crossdresser, and the living in the role of one of the stereotypes, or archetypes, provided by the culture, e.g. drag, androgyne, transvestite, transsexual, transgenderist, and so forth). To see how insight works, see if you can fill in the last two letters to this O,T,T,F,F,_,_. You will know the correct answer without my help, because your culture has provided you with it...

Culture Shock

As a small child I lived in many very different cultural communities within the Middle West for reasons described in my autobiography in Our Sorority called *Many Little Kindnesses.*

Between the age of four and nine I lived: in Brownsville (the black community of Greater Chicago); the WASP-Nobility community of my grand-parents; as a "little girl" for two years (First and Second Grade) in a Catholic Girl's School; as a "True Aryan" (my family is tied to the Hohenzollern Line) in a Bund Kamp in Wisconsin; as a student in an English "Public" Boarding School (that served as a "home" for Blitz children from England); and, then a very small town in rural Minnesota.

It is not rare for the average small child to move with his family from place to place. Usually he stays within the framework of his own cultural setting (military bases, suburban communities, etc.). However, when you move dramatically from one culture setting to another: you must internalize a whole new set of values; accept at face value certain internal cultural values; recognize certain externally directed prejudices; and, survive. Ordinarily, when you shift from one cultural setting into another, you may suffer from the traumatic change in socialization and value structures: and perhaps recognize the failures of your own culture. This "trauma" is called *culture shock.*

As a result, I was a victim of Culture Shock many many times. Consider, as small samples, being: 1) a four year old

blue-eyed blond in a totally black community; 2) taught in an Edwardian world 30 years out of sync with the real world; 3) thrown into a Catholic world where God knows all, and he talks to the nuns, so you had better tell the truth about yourself, and others; 4) into a Kamp where you were next to the Gods, just so long as you believed absolutely, and demonstrated your loyalty by killing a puppy they gave you to love. (God, I hated them for making me do that, but I also learned that we do all too much out of fear of cultural pressure!); 5) then thrown into an English school system where if you did something wrong, you knew it, and hence had to face your punishment like a man. (Can you conceive of going from Bund Kamp to a boarding school filled with English refugee children from the Blitz?); and, 6). sent to rural Minnesota with its Great Central Basin Culture that had, at the time, very little understanding of what the future held (WW-II), or the "British' kid from the city.

Pluralism

Despite what some may lead you to believe, we are not a society controlled by a majority over minorities, we are the first great pluralistic culture since Ancient Imperial Rome; with one major difference:

· = In our Society The State is required to be tolerant (an awful word to "minorities" because it sanctions without recognition of differences or any self ascribed "unearned" status), no matter how intolerant the people in each sub-culture may be of each other and the State.

· = In Imperial Rome the State persecuted the "intolerant", and God help them if they were "intolerant" of the State.

Individualism

In this same context, we find the roots of the belief in the individual. The Imperial "citizen" was a responsible being (no matter what race, nationality of origin, or religion) with certain rights and privileges. The proof of this rests with: Saint Paul -an intolerant "citizen" in the eyes of the State, who demanded recognition of his rights as a citizen; or, the individual Blacks, Hispanics, Germanics, and other non-Italians, who became Emperor.

The impact of the individual can be far reaching.

And herein rests a story. Imagine a young woman who marries a man who invents a new way to create breakfast cereals. She lives in Southern Minnesota, and one of her friends is a mother of a little boy who delights in visiting her farm to play "dress-up" with the little girls there. Imagine that this woman and the little boy's mother become delegates to the Democratic National Convention, to nominate Harry Truman...

AND THE REST OF THE STORY? She is appointed ambassador to Denmark, and she (Eugene Anderson) signs

the controversial paperwork that declares Christine Jorgensen as a woman. Is there this connection between our lives, (Christine and I)? Or, in reality, was my influence upon Eugene Anderson just ships passing in the night? I would like to think not, but the impact of Christine Jorgenson upon our Culture is undeniable!

III. Scope, Depth, Interaction.

In ancient society each tribe had its own totem or symbol. This totem had within it magical powers that were sacred.

Linden Tree

My family's totem was the Linden Tree, a totem which dates back to the so called Aryan invasion of Europe, the Middle East, and the Indian Sub-Continent. Like many of the earliest totems it has multiple meanings: "Beloved of the Sun God - Apollo" (blond haired); "Beautiful" (the root of the word in most Romance languages); "Place by the Waterfall" (Earth and Water Signs); and, the current "Place" (A registered coat of arms designates from whence a family comes. But, this is not necessarily its actual coat of arms. Few families intermarry, and with each new generation there may be additions, or deletions from the shield. How you get from Lind to Hohenzollern....., is a curious adventure in Fate. Currently, if its bearer still is entitled to a coat of arms, which as an American, I am not, it would have to be re-registered for authenticity. A coat of arms depicts a branch of the tree fallen to earth with three blossoming branches, representing the three main family branches (French, German, and Swedish) remaining on a field of gold (signifying renowned bravery in battle) with the "ironic motto" (usually a contrary motto to be read backward to provide an insight into the family's true character), "Strength from Virtue".

Our para-cultural history is like the Linden tree; in that it has deep roots, soft wood easily shaped, lofty branches, and seeds that spread for miles on the air to grow solitary trees rather than groves.

So as a shaman with great mystical powers I shall explain to you the spirit of this particular para-cultural totem, of the tree, to you...

IV. CULTURAL History

IN ESSENCE, WESTERN CIVILIZATION, AND MOST NON-WESTERN CULTURES, ASCRIBE TO CROSSDRESSING VERY POSITIVE TRADITIONS AND BENEFICIAL POWERS.

These positive traditions and beneficial powers have deep roots in our history and religious myths that go back to pre-history and oral memory revealed in such sources, among many, as the Gilgamesh, Book of Genesis, and Homer's Iliad in order of probable transcription into a readable language.

Since, you are probably well based in your culture; what I shall do is try to identify for you some of our roots, with a clue to the positive tradition, or beneficial power. I shall leave the impact of that root upon our culture for you to determine. In a single speech it would be impossible for me to trace from each root its impact. However, in one case, I shall point out how a relatively modern cultural trend has turned a positive power into a negative force which we must address immediately, since it is an infection rotting away at the tree.

Cultural Roots

In each case our culture, and its pluralistic approaches, permits crossdressing:

a) *as a means of individual survival.* Examples, the berdache (French/Native American term) in its many forms in shaman cultures, in history Mazarin's keeping Philip in skirts to prevent rivalry between him and his brother Louis (XIV).

b) *to assume the powers of the "other".* Examples, the skirted shaman, or priest, who draws powers from the "other", woman and all else not male, to help in child birth and curing the ill. Margaret Mead, Frazer (The Golden Bough), and Simone de Beauvoir (The Second Sex) among many others explore this.

c) *to have a certain power.* A close example in Nature: It has been recently discovered that the male baboon leader of the pack often assumes feminine stances to use the females to carry out his will rather than constantly fighting. Also, a curious fact is that his serotonin level is almost double that of his nearest male rival, and when he loses his "status" so does he lose this, and his ability to mimic female behavior.

d) *to deceive the evil eye.* In many places it is a custom for the bride and groom to exchange clothes. The theme of Some Like It Hot is a version of this, as is Victor/Victoria.

e) *as a punishment.* Hercules was honorably punished in this fashion.

f) *the power of ecstacy, or sheer joy.* Examples, total dedication of self to Cybele, or God, in a state of ecstacy. (There is a direct quote, in the New Testament, of a saying by Jesus on this which is denied indirectly by Saint Paul at Ephesus.) What I love is a little pre-Hellenic Greek poem that describes the joy of a little boy dancing alone in a dress.

g) *to partake in love.* Examples: Of God, from the Arabic love of God by Satan (as a woman) that he would hide his love in exile rather than accept man as his superior at the hand of God. In history: (of men) Sporus to Nero, (of Women) Choisy and Eon de Beaumont. And in irony how Casanova

claimed in his Memoirs that Eon de Beaumont was a woman after making love to him!

h) *the beautiful race.* Examples. Saint Mark was said to exclaim, "Not Angles, but Angels." The early Israelites were described as beautiful. A quality for survival.

i) *to release creative powers.* Example: In the Book of Genesis God is described as having the duality of male and female, and Adam, at first, partakes in this duality. The need for duality in God/Goddesses, to create or destroy is a common belief in many ancient religions (Hindu, Egyptian, etc.) It is interesting to note that when God is called upon to identify himself, his response is, "I AM." I suspect that this self-realization aspect of the crossdresser is what many fear. Which leads us to:

j) *the beautiful hero with a cause.* Examples: Achilles (whose mother hid as Pyhrus among the women to avoid the draft), Alexander the Great, Jesus, Thor (as the bride to reclaim his hammer), and so many others in reality and myth. A very powerful image until after WWI, when as a result of the carnage of that war, and the psychotherapy of Freud, all such images were cynically turned inside out and we now have Psycho, and the beautiful knights of King Arthur become mere hired killers, and men who served honorably in Vietnam become villains. Even though the beautiful hero (the Samurai of ancient Japan) partake of the feminine, their spiritual oneness with a just cause should never be tarnished by cowards...

V. Personal Issues

"The willow of iron is steel. Its sharpness can cut through iron, or silk. It sustains, yet it is supple. For like a woman it bends, and like a man it has strength," roughly from the Arabic describing Toledo steel. From the roots of our culture, and from within our own current community, through their own insight process, there have been creative people who have touched upon the soul of cross-dressing. Historically they have created the fiber of the trunk of our tree.

The theater and the arts have sustained a strong positive image of the crossdresser, with a self-realizing sense of humor: as in Shakespeare's Sonnets on The Master-Mistress, or in the movies Some Like It Hot or Tootsie. Or a moment of belief, and self-realization, as in the song: "I Am What I Am."

In this same context, I think of the insight and growth of those who hold this award before me, and I am grateful to be among them.

For each has through her own insight, and hence self-realization, added to the strength of the tree trunk of our community.

Virginia Prince

You may not be aware of it, but, as far as I know, Virginia Prince, is the first person in history who has effectively changed a social stereotype. Why our sociologists have not studied her self-realization in this process is beyond me. She is a sociological phenomena!

When she came into my world (since I am the center of it), our culture, since Queen Victoria, had turned its back upon its historical roots to accept Freud's view that crossdressers were deviant homosexuals. (Now we are just deviants, which may be some progress, if you realize that homosexuality has been pulled out from their couches so to speak. Perhaps we will be next.) With or without the knowledge of Hirschfeld's work to disprove Freud's "assumptions not based upon even personal observation" (me), Virginia, based upon her own self-realization, set out to scientifically prove that crossdressers (those she knew as transvestites) where not gay. For more than two decades she has written books, published countless magazine and newspaper articles, appeared before countless groups (professional, public, and in our community), and placed herself before the media to carefully explain what a transvestite is. Today, except for a few fundamentalist preachers, our society generally accepts what might be Virginia Prince's view. As typified by the new stereotype reflected in the movie, Tootsie. This is a first in history.

Virginia's second claim to fame, although she might deny it, is the debt owed to her by transsexuals. (Virginia is not exactly known for a pro-TS view, however we must recognize her unique contribution.) Because, unknowingly, when she first created FPE, her first national "sorority", she also created the first real network used by the transsexual community to communicate the who, what, when, where, why, and how of their needs. With her "purge" of FPE and the re-emergence of the "sorority" in Tri-Ess, many former FPE chapters, like Rho in Washington, D.C. actually became TS groups (8 out of 11 members, were self-proclaimed TS's, and of these 6 became New Women).

Christine Jorgensen

I suppose, that if Virginia Prince was the first person to change a popularly held stereotype; I must observe that through her insight and self-realization, Christine Jorgensen was the first, with the help of Harry Benjamin (who gave her the credit due by saying: "...without you, probably none of this would have happened; the grant, my publication, lectures, etc...") to create a new stereotype, The Transsexual, in the minds of our Society.

I presume that the first modern TS was the Danish painter Einar Wegener (Andreas Sparre), who in 1931 became "Lili Elbe", whose biography is Man Into Woman.

But, it is Christine Jorgensen, who popularized the phrase, "A woman trapped in a man's body." And, the thousands of

hours she spent, at great personal cost, humanizing this message through her night club act, television appearances, newspaper and magazine articles, and speaking tours gave courage to our doctors, after almost fifteen years (1953 to 1968), to perform the surgery in the U.S.

I personally believe that without Christine Jorgensen, many, including myself, would be struggling unaided with trying to "release the woman within".

Ariadne Kane

I suppose that the Boston crowd has come to dominate our community. But, it is Fantasia Fair, which has generated many of our leaders, or, like myself, spurred us on to greater service. I personally know of the thousands of hours Ariadne has spent over the past seventeen years via the Human Outreach and Achievement Institute, speaking at whistle stop universities, before countless CD groups, major conventions of helping professionals, and before the media.

But, most importantly I think of my "gypsy princess" as a mother, a great nurturer, and a seeker of philosophical truth (even into the oneness of androgyny). With Virginia you debate, with Christine you listened; but, with Ariadne you may be forced to think and wonder where and what she may explore next. Yet, it is at the Fair that she excels, and is most thought of as a person. My only regret is that she aspires to "greatness" elsewhere, wherein in the Fair she has already attained it and doesn't realize it. Few have had such a "bully pulpit", to paraphrase Teddy Roosevelt, and few have used it as well to train the future leaders of our community.

Merissa Sherrill Lynn

Because of my driftings through the "groves of academia" Merissa has always struck me as a 1960's "flower child" with an agenda hidden under her skirt (or sweater, since she does not wear skirts that often) as she leads you from "non-directive" involvement to commitment. Yet, we both come from the same banquet table approach to education. (Mame Dennis: "Life is a banquet table, but most poor bastards prefer to starve to death.") The difference is that I try to set up the banquet for you to pick and choose from, while she "involves you" into setting up the banquet first. Her method may take longer, and require immense patience (that I must confess I lack). Yet, in the long run, I think that she will prove to have the best approach...

When I think of Merissa, I think of the phrase: "to bring together". Like her genre of educators, she hates "stereotypes" or efforts to classify individuals in an Aristotelian structuring. The dialogue always begins with, "what do you feel?" But, I warn you the direction is as unerring as the commander's wish at Charge of The Light Brigade, still less bloody, I hope.

Sometimes, I think of her as a sighted person in the land of the blind. She is a molder of minds, a builder, a doer. She has that rare ability to find in individuals, their loyalty. And I seriously believe that without her there would have never been an IFGE, or this conference. A rare individual indeed... One whom we all need...

Sister Mary Elizabeth

Like me, I fear that the good sister is on a journey, with no real destination. Yet, in my mind I see more "the knight errand", (than the knight errant of yore or the happy nun of Canterbury.) She sallies forth with lance in hand seeking justice for the king, like my Paladin ancestor for Charlemagne. For as many years as I have been in our community, she was there trying to steady the boat when I, or others, stood up and created havoc in our wake. Yet, we have never really known each other. But, I cherish her work in seeking CD (most notably TS) rights through the ACLU. I must confess that I have been a card carrying member of the ACLU, but more in Society than in our Community. Because of this, I know that she is a person of great courage. In addition to this battling for justice, she too has served for many years as an educator in our community, and I believe she is a seeker of moral truth in her teachings. (Or, as a nun once told me, "we know the truth, that is why we are with God.")

VI. Growth and Well Being.

The Storm of AIDS

The branches of our tree are many, with a pluralistic approach to the many aspects of our community. With over a hundred groups in the US alone, we are becoming stronger and more numerous. Yet, the tree flourishes now in a season of fair weather, in a tolerant Society (despite Sen. Helms and the like), untested by storms. But, there is a storm coming, called AIDS. It has already taken its toll in the gay community, particularly among our "drag" sisters, and through the bisexual bridge, through drugs, through prostitution, but mostly through ignorance and disbelief, it is entering the CD community and the straight community. At this point in time, the straight community naively believes that it is immune against AIDS, except as a "medical accident." (Yet, note how the US Senate reacted when just one letter was read, based upon such an "accident." Think of thousands of letters seeking revenge against those spreading the Scourge of God, when the straight community gets AIDS.)

When this storm breaks, there will be no escape route. The fundamentalists will hunt you down as a potential carrier of God's scourge. If we do not build a strong community, the tree will snap in the winds of intolerance and it will take decades to regrow. Not to mention the destruction of the lives of many of you sitting in this room.

What Our Community Must Do Now!

There are many things that we must do, and there is little time:

1). we must build bridges to the gay community, particularly with the our "drag" sisters, to offer our help in their battle. But, more importantly to learn how they have gained the political strength to do battle.

2). from the gay example, we must first call to account those therapists, who make a living off of our needs by pretending to be CD's in our midst, but still agree that we are "deviants" with their colleagues. We must encourage them to join our doctors (Sheila Kirk), lawyers (Naomi Owen) and other professionals to freely enjoy "the hobby of kings" in our midst, rather than hiding in fear via cloaking themselves in false status symbols and the heavy armor of their maleness. Crossdressing has cultural and historical roots that are not "deviant", except to a handful of psychotherapists and others who are serving as lackeys to those who wish to use psychiatry, or the law, to enforce their form of intolerance.

3). whether we are transsexuals, or any other form of CD we should never claim that as a "disability", no matter how economically tempting that may be. Because it classifies us as "sick." These CD's are playing into the hands of our enemies by proving to the world that we lack the ability help ourselves. The distance between being "sick" and being "deviant" is less than the thickness of a human hair.

4). we must encourage the open development of a CD business community. As a "consumer" subculture we have fantastic clout. (Humanistic therapists refer to CD as an economic behavior disorder- i.e. without clothes you can't be a CD.) If 1 out of every 1,000 adult males is an active CD, there should be enough of us in most major cities to create economic communities.

5). we should develop an economic development fund, and Advisory Boards, for small businesses, to help create new companies, keeping in mind: "that any commodity or service that a woman buys, CD's buy."

6). we should develop a "legal defense fund', perhaps through some sort of individual bail bond insurance program like AAA. This fund should be reserved for class action or major civil actions. (Such as the Atlanta case which reverted TS surgery to "experimental surgery".)

7). we must develop our cultural roots and history to show our contributions to society. From time to time we should republish statements, such as the American Association for the Advancement of Science's 1975 declaration on "Discrimination Against Sexual Minorities".

8). we must prepare our own agenda for the future... And we must establish a positive self image, similar to that one declared by Norma Jean, the current "gay" president of Delta Chi in Alexandria, and member of the Academy Awards club in her **Crossdresser's Creed:**

· = I will learn to like myself.
· = I will accept myself for what I am.
· = My need to dress as a woman, or be a woman, is healthy.
· = Self-loathing, loneliness, self-abuse, substance abuse, and depression are negative things that I will not tolerate.
· = Crossdressing is right for me, or, womanhood is right for me.
· = What I am is not a problem. Any problems that exist are with others and their reaction to me, and not with who I am.
· = I have only one life to live and I will enjoy it as I deem it to be enjoyed.
· = I have a fundamental American right to my freedom and to my right to pursue happiness. I have an American Constitutional right to my freedom of speech and expression. I have a right of choice.
· = I will cease trying to justify or explain myself to the world.
· = I will live in peace and harmony with the rest of society. My behavior will always be the example for that society. I will never be intolerant or hateful towards others. I will always be intolerant of intolerance.

I think that this might be a start on a Code of Conduct or Creed that we can use to strengthen our image in the public's eye. I would suggest more stress on responsibilities and community duty, and perhaps thereby place our "rights" in a more proper context.

A long time ago, more years than I wish to count, I learned that there is only one way to escape that small package tied by the ribbon, "I, I, I," that so many in our community have bound themselves with in their little egocentric world, from which they peer so pathetically out from at the rest of the rather bemused world.

That way is through the simple phrase is, "Is there something that you need? Can I help?"

You will find life considerably less complicated, and your personal growth will be fantastic!

How To Improve Local Chapters

When you go back to your local chapter there are certain things that I want you to change:

1. I want you to require new members to "earn the privilege of belonging to the group through personal service to the group." HOW DARE THEY BUY YOUR TIME! You

are not a vendor, nor should they be allowed to be consumers!

2. Interview your prospective members (at a place convenient to your interviewer, not the candidate) and let them know ahead of time what you expect them to do to earn the right to belong, provide them a place to dress when they arrive with the help of an experienced member (usually well before the meeting), and believe it or not have them serve as a greeter to help others as they arrive. Appoint them to your committees, and if they fail to show, drop them! They are not mature enough to be running around in skirts...

3. Your group should have a set meeting date and place that should be unchanged as much as possible.

4. The executive board should meet separately, and regularly...

5. The group should have a professional advisory board (helping professionals such as doctors, lawyers, and therapists should be available to help the membership and the group as a whole).

6. Your group should have a charter and be registered with IRS as a non-profit.

7. Your group should not become a "railway track to the surgery" (not all self-proclaimed transsexuals are in fact transsexuals), or "a place where the sensitivities of wives are more important than the needs of the members" (the wives are not crossdressers, and when it is all said and done: **a)** they need their own group with intelligent guidance, and, **b)** the group was fundamentally established to serve cross-dressers), or "a place where we just share of our emotional and personal needs" (find a therapist!), or "just a social club" (?).

8. Your group should have a healthy mix of:
   a. social service (speaker's programs and community service);
   b. education (at least to help members to improve their public appearance and self-image),
   c. business (no one should "support" the membership),
   d. service to the group (everyone, repeat, everyone should be required to donate time and effort to the group in order to be accepted into the group),
   e. fun social activities in public - **(1)** have a theme for every meeting: Christmas Party, Costume Party, and so forth, **(2)** set up a buffet made by the women themselves, **(3)** adopt a bar or restaurant, and **(4)** GIVE EVERYBODY A JOB!;
   f. you should bring in speakers from the outside who are not crossdressers; and,
   g. enjoy politics (if your membership can not get involved, you are not providing a bridge for their involvement).

9. If your leader has been in charge for more than four years, replace her! The group is not entitled to a free ride!

10. Those who do not contribute to the group, should be ASKED TO LEAVE! (How dare they claim your time!)

11. If certain members think that they have "out grown", or "it's just a bigger closet," or any other "put down behavior," or "we are just here to see who wants to go to such and such FI show tonight," show them the door! (Let them poison their own watering hole.)

12. Always, at least once each year, provide a token (a certificate, a plaque, or a wine glass) of appreciation for services rendered by both members and outsiders.

13. Be certain that your local newsletter/appropriate mailing address is submitted to IFGE (with name of representative), and Our Sorority (no matter what "national policy" is), so that local individuals can write to you direct for recruitment. (By the way, someone in the group should write to the group's *listed address* to be certain that its mail is not being dumped by the post office for some reason.) In cases where the national does not provide a local chapter address, **it is taken for granted by me that this chapter does not exist and therefore I do not list it**, and this is a blind recruitment effort which: **a)** makes the national look bigger than it really is; **b)** may be an effort to recruit new members in an urban area (usually SMSA) under false advertising; **c)** may serve to weaken a non-national local group by attempting to split it up; and, **d)** may lead our readers to a waste of time in contacts that lead nowhere.

14. Your chapter financial statement should be published at least once each business year.

You may have a smaller group, but its members will know why they are there, and in the long run you will be surprised how strong and large the group has become!

How To Improve National Groups or Events

If you serve on the Board of Directors, or a Member of a National Organization or Event:

1. All members should have easy access to its leadership (both its "office" leadership and its Board of Directors), charter (and related goals and objectives), IRS status information, and annual achievements stated in measurable terms.

2. The Board of Directors should be chosen by, be responsive to, and subject to change by an identifiable membership.

3. Its leadership should be responsive to the Board of Directors, and if not, the leaders should be replaced by the Board. (This is often the major failing of our Boards, who

tend to quit themselves rather than be charged for "beheading" the Queen Mother.)

4. Your national organization should have a standard accounting **chart of accounts** for both revenue and expenses tied to its checking account records, wherein receipts and expenses are properly allocated. A complete **annual statement** should be provided (listing all receipts and expenses at a simple summary level tied to the chart of accounts). If there are "outstanding receipts or expenses' these should be listed in a separate column of income and expense to the "actuals", so that the budget "slashers" know what is *fixed* (outstanding bills) and *flexible* (available for decision making). **A budget** should be prepared by project, with a worksheet that relates line by line to the annual income and expense statement so that the Board of Directors can relate proposed budget to past performance to avoid "pie in the sky" funding. If the income and operating expense statement is in excess of $10000 per year, it should be **audited annually**, at a minimum. And its **annual statement should be published** so that it's membership (and those who donate to its "projects") know where the money comes from and goes.

5. IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, I WOULD WRITE THEM A LETTER AND ADVISE THEM THAT IF **BY 1995** THEY DO NOT MEET THE ABOVE MINIMUM STANDARDS YOU WILL **WITHDRAW ALL DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP.** At this point in time most nationals are still developing proper accounting and budgeting systems (and frankly the federal laws related to CPA accountability, and the subsequent increase in accounting and CPA charges for even the simplest reviews are outrageous). **BUT, BY 1995, this reasonable and practical goal must be met!**

6. Be wary of "Comet Queens". Individuals who use the media for self aggrandizement, acquire community information and resources to solve their own problems, and once they have done this (usually within two years) they vanish. National organizations such as IFGE should warn the media. I have seen cases were they have left hundreds of letters unanswered, groups totally without leadership, and a very amused media.....

7. At the national level we have enough trouble with the Queen Mothers, **like myself** - and others we all know, who try to do everything far too long. They should be thanked for their service and then encouraged to serve in advisory roles (maybe hold non-voting membership on boards), but new members should move up as "Directors, or whatever" to keep the groups, events, and national organizations vigorous. And no national organizational "Director" should be seated for more than ten years. Such leaders tend to stifle the organization's needs to change by imposing and confusing their own ambitions and experiences with the group's to the point that when they do leave, the national group, or event, dies. The organization should never be identified by the name of its "Queen Mother", its name and reason for being should be in your hands, as its membership.

8. If national organizations or events, in an effort to create a new local chapter or stage a national (regional) event, follow unethical practices which lead to the splitting up, or destruction, of a local established group or event: Write down the facts and: a) notify the Board of Directors of that group or event, (often as not such "games" are not done with the Board's knowledge), **and write me!**

9. Give of both your time and money to support that CD National(s) which actively seek to achieve goals and objectives that you deem of value. If a church or charity drive can state a "tithe", I can. I recommend **as a minimum**, 2/10ths of 1% of your gross income. ($40,000 = $80/year as "donations", not subscriptions, or event fees.) Through income averaging times mailing list, this could mean over $120,000 for the Outreach Institute alone (which essentially is the only national which deals basically with professionals), and probably twice that amount for IFGE, Tri-Ess, and equivalent nationals! Such funding is income tax deductible, and would undoubtedly lead to a significant change in the ability of the nationals to serve you, and those in need in our community!

Time has come to say good night, there are other things we all must do. But, before I surrender this "bully pulpit" I want to thank you for your help through the years to make it possible for me to win this award.

Thank you...

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OUT OF THE CLOSET FOR FIFTEEN YEARS AND MAKING IT IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

By Phyllis Randolph Frye, Attorney

On the ninth of June, 1976, I was given my two-weeks notice and sent home by my boss. It seemed that as a guy, my hair was too long, my eyebrows were too thin, my conversation was too honest, and, "... the clients wouldn't be able to handle it." That marked the beginning of the end of my career as an engineer, and the beginning of the beginning of my transition to becoming who I truly was inside.

The two weeks notice ended on June twenty-third, my third wedding anniversary. Needless to say, my spouse and I were apprehensive about the future, but (if you like to read the last page of a novel first) I will tell you now that she and I have been out of the closet for fifteen years, and we are making it together in Houston.

Some background will help, although my story is probably very similar to yours. (One similarity is that neither of us drools, molests children, or fulfills the other stereotypes portrayed in books, on television, or by Jesse Helms.) My parents are still married. I am the middle child, with an older brother and a younger sister. I excelled in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts (Eagle, Senior Patrol Leader, Order of the Arrow), although I would rather have worn a Brownie and a Girl Scout uniform. (Note: All Eagle Scouts, please write so we can form an association.) I remember those different feelings from before age five, and began cross-dressing often from age eight.

As a youth, I was a softball player, singer, swimmer, and hunter. In high school, I participated in the school newspaper, A Capella Choir, Senior Play, rifle team (two letters), and ROTC (Cadet Commander). Taking accelerated courses, I graduated with an A+ average, and went on to get four college scholarships at Texas A & M University. (Note: All Aggies please write so we can form a T-Aggies Chapter.) While at A & M, I did Singing Cadets and ROTC, got married, finished a Civil Engineering degree in three and a half years, stayed for a masters in Mechanical Engineering, sired a child, and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the US Army in 1970.

During my overseas military tour, my first wife didn't like me wearing her panties and opted for divorce and custody of our child. Needless to say, I'd done the purges and had tons of guilt. The military moved to discharge me. I promised to embarrass them if I didn't get an honorable discharge. Later, I even cut my wrist. This was August, 1973. I was a mess. (See, my story is close to your story.)

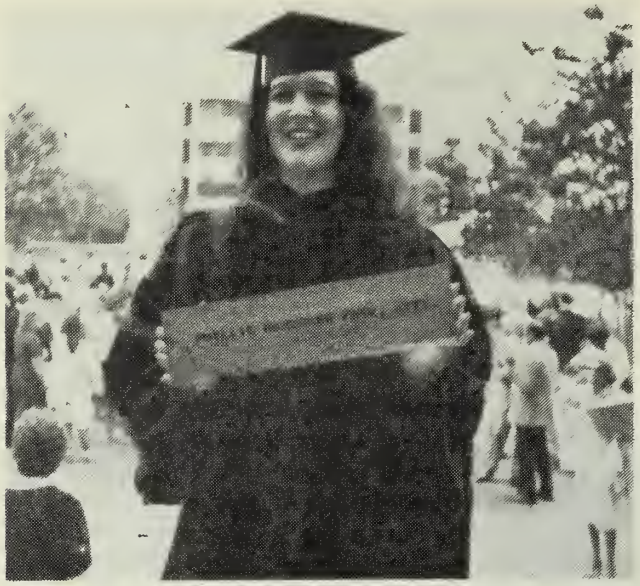
In September, 1973, I was born again to Christ. I remain a Christian of strong belief, but I am not writing to proselytize. Your religion is your business, mine is mine.

Also in September, 1973, I met the person who became my best friend, and has been my spouse for eighteen years. I told her about who I might become. We later fell into love. She decided to marry me with the comment, "If that is all there is wrong with you, I think I've got a bargain."

In June, 1976, I'd already lost some jobs by being honest about my cross-dressing. (I hate having to lie about things. One boss I told fired me while he was cheating on his wife with his married secretary.) Anyway, we decided that I would begin applying for work as a man, but that I would be upfront about my cross-dressing in private during the interview. Guess how far that approach went in the engineering community in 1976? After a bundle of I-want-to-hire-you-but's, my sweetheart told me that if they wouldn't take me openly for who I was privately, I should just become myself and carve out a niche. So, on September thirteenth, 1976, I became Phyllis full time, and haven't looked back.

First, I became aware of how badly society treats women. I began to hate the term "girl." I joined NOW shortly thereafter. Secondly, I became politically active with the gay and lesbian community (our natural allies), and with the Democratic Party.

Thirdly, I did not try to hide my past, nor did I try to hide what I was doing. (Of course, I did try to pass when out on the street.) We have lived in the same house continually, despite



Phyllis erarns her "shingle," May, 1989

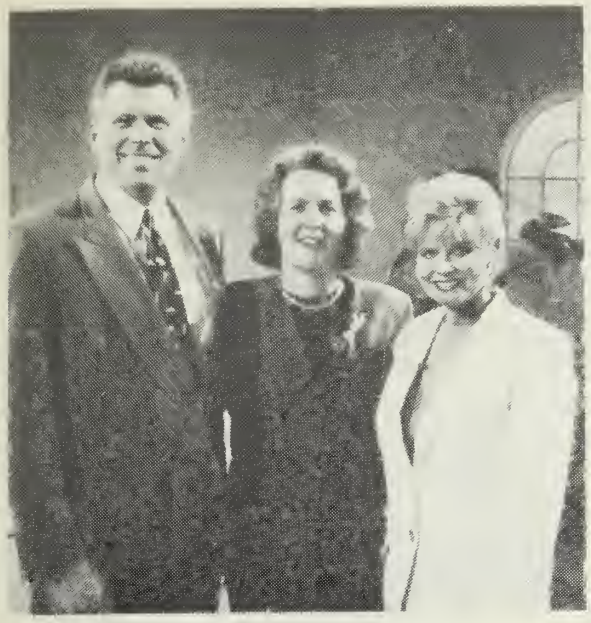
years of eggings, of spray paintings, burning soiled baby dialers on the lawn, and obscene phone calls (most frequently around christian [small c intended] holidays). I called universities and lectured everywhere. I openly defied the anti-crossdressing ordinance in Houston. I began to destroy it by not giving the cops or the bigots a stereotype-fulfilling reason to arrest me. In 1981 the ordinance was repealed. In 1991, the Mayor of Houston gave me a certificate of appreciation on the tenth anniversary of that repeal. (For more on the history of such ordinances, go to any law library and ask for 30 Hastings L J 1151.)

Fourthly, we tried to survive economically. My income had accounted for two-thirds of our income in 1976. We had

Being sworn in, May, 1981

a mortgage, child support, a car loan, and only one-third of the income we had been spending before. I learned how to sew. I did almost anything to get work, all to no avail. At Christmas, 1977, our Metropolitan Community Church brought us the canned food that was given the Sundays before. Yes, it got that bad. I fought the ruling of a bigoted administrative judge for over a year to finally get $42 per week in unemployment benefits. I sold, and still sell Amway brand products. I used my GI Bill to go back to school to get a Masters of Business Administration and a law degree at University of Houston in 1981. My legal internship was a semester in the Office of the District Attorney. I learned a lot about the court room, while the DA's office learned a lot about myths and stereotypes.

With Olivia Labrie in San Antonio Court fighting (and winning) for change of records



With co-stars of Houston talk show

With you-know-who

Even though I was a licensed attorney in 1981, my ego was still very weak. I had gone through a lot of hell the last five years. I was making good money with my Amway business, and I had a few engineering clients because I had continued to pay to keep my engineering license current even during the lean years. That is what I did to earn money during those five years, along with a little law practice. But what I mostly did during 1981-1986 was fight the fights for individual liberties and for lesbian/gay/transgender rights. I also cussed (and still do cuss) Ronald Reagan a lot.

In 1986, my ego was stronger and I began to practice law as a trial lawyer. All of the political chits from the earlier years were now paid off: many of the judges knew me and respected me from their campaigns. Therefore, I got many appointments early in my practice, and the courthouse gossip about me was good from the beginning. I began to make good money, so we were able to pay off our mortgage. I even went to my twentieth high school reunion.

If you were to plot a graph of the joy in my life since 1986, you would see a continuing positive climb with only a few dips. Life is great. I remain a transgenderist (for want of a better label: I'm a full time and completely ready for surgery transsexual who stopped and may just hold here for the rest of her life). I am well known and am well respected in my work. The neighborhood has gotten over itself. We also bought a lake house last summer. I was elected last year by my peers as a director in my legal organization. I am also a director with the Houston League of Women Voters. And, I am a director of the Gulf Coast Transgender Community.

The point of all this is to say to you that 1991 is a lot better time to be out than 1976 was. And to say that if I could make it starting in 1976, you can make it starting now.

Sisters, take advantage of what I and others like me have done. Claim for yourself who you are, and to hell with the bigots. You have nothing to be ashamed of. Be proud of who you are. I'll end with one last cliche, "You only have one life to live." Just one life, that's all. So, get on with being who you are.

[end]

Thnx: Nancy Cole

MEDICAL:

Dr. Sheila Kirk is Board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology, and is a member of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association. She is the author of 'Hormones', and educational resources publication published by IFGE. She is currently working with IFGE as a medical consultant to the crossdressing/ transsexual community, and as a liaison between that community and the professional medical community throughout the world. If you have any questions you would like answered, or subjects you would like discussed, you may contact her : c/o IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

IT'S TIME FOR YOUR MEDICINE, #1

by Sheila Kirk, M.D.

The art and science of medicine has moved so rapidly in the last twenty-five years as to overwhelm a simple practitioner. The horse-and-buggy physician is a distant memory. The house-call is a thing of the past. We are so benefitted today by what we have learned and experienced that it is astounding. This is the age of isotopes and of ultrasound diagnosis, laser surgery and innovative medical therapy. New pathways are opening and obstructions to thought are being swept away. But, each new solution brings more questions, and the need for more research. While we know so much more than the physician who practiced a generation ago, we are still searching. One area of medical investigation that is skyrocketing is genetics. The idea that genetic patterns affect health and illness, and determine life variations is commonly accepted. We are coming to believe that there is a genetic basis for all that takes place in our wellness and in our vulnerability to disease. Illnesses come from different causes. Even those that were thought to be infectious depend on variations in host susceptibility and immune response. These are now seen as inheritable traits.

Genetics is defined as the study of biologic variation. As applied to humans, it can show how one person can be a Mozart, while another can be burdened with diabetes. It is a complex science, but one with specific rules and predictability. It deals with our chromosomes, and the genes that make up the structure of the chromosomes that are found in all the cells in our bodies. Each cell has twenty-three paired chromosomes in its nucleus. It is estimated that in each human there are between 50,000 and 100,000 genes. The genes each have a specific purpose in guiding our lives. This genetic pattern accounts for our physical appearance, our emotional make-up, our level of intelligence, our talents, our abilities, our failings, and our personality. Our susceptibility to disease of probably every kind, from cancer or heart defect to congenital deformity, is mediated by our genetic make-up.

Recent studies show that 3% of all pregnancies result in the birth of a child with a significant genetic disorder or a birth defect that can cause crippling mental retardation or early death. Nearly one-tenth of all admissions to pediatric hospital services in a large study were because of genetic disorders. Genetically-determined disease is found to be the cause of death in 40% of the children who don't survive their illness with admission to a hospital. In adults, a very high percentage of admissions to hospitals are gene-associated disorders. Cancer, heart and vessel disease (including strokes and heart attacks), hypertension, heart and valve

disorders, a multitude of anemias, various muscle and skeletal disorders, and a host of other types of infirmity are now known to be of genetic origin.

The genetic material we inherit from our forebears doesn't always come to us in the same way it existed in them. Sometimes material skips generations. Other times the material is altered when mutations or cross-overs occur. Sometimes these are beneficial to the offspring, yielding greater intelligence or talents than the parents. Sometimes they carry the parents' addictions, metabolic diseases, or malignancies.

In the last few years, the technique of gene mapping has been developed. Through this system, anyone's gene pattern can be discovered and mapped. Conceivably, genetic mapping done in early childhood could predict what disease might lie in a person's future. Then, through genetic engineering or planned study and treatment, one could avoid those problems. This could significantly improve the quality of life and increase longevity.

What, you might ask, does this have to do with the transgendered? Consider a man and a woman having a child, male or female, in whom there is a mutation or a crossover wherein that child becomes transgendered. A specific gene, or perhaps a combination of genes are altered in the very early cell divisions of the embryo such that this tiny human being will be born to function at some level of transgendered activity. That child will display activity typical of the transgendered. Cross-dressing, or a behavior consistent with the opposite gender will be observed. There are reports of children who have demonstrated cross-dressing to an extraordinary extent at two or three years of age. These children are found in homes where there is stability and balance. They are in an environment where there is no demonstrable influence or background for transgendered development. Yet, we have a young person who moves into this activity with no prompting, no reading or visual experience to stimulate - no source other than what comes from within. The genetic alteration is responsible for the child's gender identity differing from that of the siblings.

We already have strong evidence that some transgendered behaviors are genetically caused. While more information is being gathered to support this idea, what we know now is most convincing. Transgenderism, dysphoria, and perhaps homosexuality will be better understood when viewed on a molecular, genetic level. For now, we must be patient until gene mapping and gene probe procedures are able to demonstrate this more categorically. These techniques are now exploring malignant diseases, cardiovascular problems, and metabolic disorders as they appear in the general population. Clarification of our genetic pattern is still to come. When the genetic basis of transgenderism becomes clear, we will be viewed with more acceptance and approval. That day is coming!

[end]

LEGAL:

(NAOMI OWEN is a prominent midwest attorney, a member of the IFGE Board of Directors, and the chairman of the Board's Legal and By-Laws Committee. She is also national Vice Chairman of Tri-Ess, and is President of the Chi Chapter of Tri-Ess. She is the founder of the Be All You Want to Be Weekend. Even though Naomi has extensive experience in dealing with gender issues, she is not available to represent individuals in private matters. If you wish to contact Naomi directly, or have suggestions for topics to be covered in this column, you can write: Naomi Owen, Attorney at Law, P O Box 342, Chicago IL 60690.)

LEGAL BRIEFS

by Naomi Owen, JD

This is the first of what I hope will be an ongoing series of short articles dealing with issues of concern to the gender community. The content and advice is meant to be practical, informal, and concise. As is always the case, you should obtain formal legal advice from a licensed attorney familiar with the law and legal precedent of your local jurisdiction, and with the facts pertaining to your situation.

Let's start with a review of what legal information is already available from the IFGE.

The IFGE was the first to offer legal resource material directly to the gender community. In 1990, it published Legal Aspects of Transsexualism, by Sister Mary Elizabeth, SSE. This extraordinary in-depth study is must reading for those in transition, thinking about transition, or who have an interest in the legal aspects of transition. It contains good advice and an abundance of important information. The book can be ordered using the blank found elsewher in the Tapestry.

In 1991, IFGE published the booklet, How to be a Good Legal Consumer. This guide encourages you to take an active role in the making of your legal decisions. It also helps you to get the most for the money you spend for legal services. It includes sections on: When do you need a lawyer? How do you select a lawyer? How do lawyers set fees? How to hold down legal costs? What is your lawyer's duty to you? and, What is your duty to your lawyer? It also briefly discusses what to do if you are dissatisfied with your lawyer's performance. We hope this guide will help you become a better-informed consumer of legal services. This booklet is also available from IFGE. Its cost is only $2.

Recently, I was contacted by a cross-dresser who was stopped for a minor traffic violation. While attempting to talk the officer out of giving her a ticket, she unsuccessfully tried to pass herself off as a woman (A NO NO!) by using a driver's license she had obtained under her femme name, which was not her legal name (ANOTHER NO NO!). The predictable result was that this foolish cross-dresser not only faced a fine for the traffic violation, but she could also be fined and lose the right to drive because she: 1) knowingly used false information (her name and her sex) on her application for the license, and 2) drove while using an illegally obtained, and therefore invalid driver's license.

In order to warn members of the gender community that engaging in foolish conduct could have serious consequences, IFGE will soon put out a wallet-sized guide of do's and don't's in case you are stopped by a police officer, and what to do if you are arrested. Many of us are unaware of our obligations, responsibilities, and rights when faced with an unexpected law enforcement situation. This concise guide will offer practical, general information designed to keep you from getting into trouble. Or, at least, it should limit the trouble you are in. Watch for it!

Now that we have gotten the preliminaries out of the way, we're ready to tackle some issues. That's where your input is important. What are the questions you want to see discussed? How does the law impact your lifestyle? I look forward to hearing from you!

ELECTROLYSIS:

[Linda DeFruscio is a Registered Electrologist and a Registered Electrology Instructor currently teaching at the Eleanor Roberts School of Electrology in Boston, MA. She is the owner of A&A Electrolysis Associates, located at 815 Washington St., Newtonville, MA 02160 617-965-9622]

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR SKIN DURING ELECTROLYSIS

by Linda DeFruscio, R.E.

Not too long ago a prospective patient came in for a pre-treatment consultation. He had had thirty hours of electrolysis. When I examined his face I saw areas of redness (erythema) and swelling (edema), and some scarring (keloiding). There were dark spots (hyper-pigmentation) and many small bumps, commonly called razor-bumps (keratosis pilaris). Each of these problems was due to incorrect treatment or faulty aftercare. It would probably take six months for this face to heal. If he had known what to expect from the treatments and how to take care of his face after treatment, the damage could have been avoided.

The redness and swelling on the potential client's face were signs of overtreatment. No area should be treated again until all swelling, discoloration, and scabbing have cleared. If you observe persistent irritation, ask your electrologist to spread out the area of treatment or spend less time working in any one area. You can also ask your practitioner to use insulated bulbous probes (IB probes) which concentrate the current, keeping it at the tip of the probe, thus reducing irritation of the follicle. The electrologist might not want to use IB probes as they are more expensive and require more frequent cleaning and replacement. If you are having trouble with irritation, the IB probe is preferred. Overtreatment can actually increase hair growth due to the increased blood supply. This causes latent follicles to erupt.

After treatment it is normal to experience redness lasting from a half-hour to many hours. The coarser the hair being treated, the more irritated the follicle becomes, and the redder the surrounding skin. In patients with particularly sensitive skin, the redness may last the rest of the day. This can be reduced by applying ice packs IMMEDIATELY after treatment, the sooner the better. There are cosmetics available that provide a discreet cover while the redness lasts.

Another treatment-related problem is dead hairs left in the follicles, unconnected at the root, but not removed from the follicle. These follicles become very irritated, developing pimples (pustules). It is up to the electrologist to ensure that all hairs are removed. If this is a problem you experience, tell your practitioner. It is not unusual, however, to observe small hair particles in the follicle after a hair has been properly removed. The electrologist should make some effort to remove these at the time of treatment, but it is difficult to remove all of these. You may not notice them. They look like normal hair, and will work out as you shave.

Different people's skin heals differently. Some beards can only handle one or two hours of treatment per week, others can handle five or six hours' work. Lighter skin tends to be more sensitive. Darker skin may tend to pigmentate more if you are not careful with care after treatment. You should learn how your skin responds to treatment so you and your electrologist can treat it appropriately.

Scarring, or keloiding is a sign of too much: too much work being done to remove each hair, too much treatment in a week, or too much hair being removed from too small an area. The cure for too much is less: less voltage, less time in treatment per week, or spreading the work out more to distribute the trauma less densely over the face.

Hyper-pigmentation is a dark skin area. This can be caused by sun damage, acne, extraction of blackheads or whiteheads (comedones), or skin damage like cuts, scrapes, or overuse of abrasive skin care products. Skin that has been treated with electrolysis is especially susceptible to hyper-pigmentation from ultraviolet rays. You can protect against this by using a sunblock of at least SPF 15. Make sure it is PABA free and noncomedogenic if you are prone to acne. Use this whenever you plan to be in the sun, winter or summer. One of the best ways to cause both hyper-pigmentation and scarring is by trying to remove ingrown hairs. Leave that exercise to your practitioner, please!

To promote healing, I recommend that patients use salt water rinses after treatment. They are very good for preventing comedones and pustules. Salt serves as a catalyst to healing, and soothes the skin. Make a solution of a teaspoon of salt or Epsom salts in an inch or two of water in a tumbler. Apply with a cloth or a Handi-Wipe. Do not use paper towels as they can damage the skin. Soak the cloth or towel in the solution and apply to the treated area for two to five minutes.

It is helpful to exfoliate the skin daily. Removing the dead skin cells promotes the growth of new skin cells. I recommend using an exfoliating skin cleanser like an acne scrub that contains 2.5% benzoyl peroxide. The scrub should be non-alkaline and non-alcohol based. If you have sensitive skin, do not use the

scrub immediately after treatment. Wait until the irritation has healed. The gentle use of a loofah also helps to exfoliate the skin. Before using a new loofah, pre-soften by soaking it in hot water. When exfoliating, use a good liquid soap and scrub with small circular motions. Rinse thoroughly with warm water to remove all residue. I don't recommend using Buf-puffs. They are harsher than a loofah and can irritate the skin.

It is important to keep the skin very clean after treatment, especially for the first twenty-four hours. Do not be afraid to wash thoroughly, preferably with a liquid soap. The fatty acids used to solidify bar soaps tend to clog the pores. I prefer Prescription Plus products, not to be confused with Prescriptives. Unfortunately, these are only available through professional practitioners. You do not need a prescription for them, however. Department store cleansers like Clinique or Lancome are also good.

Following treatment you should apply a medicated makeup specially formulated for post-electrolysis use, a bacitracin-type ointment, or a hydrocortisone (0.5%) cream. The hydrocortisone is an anti-inflammatory, and helps to control irritation. Stronger hydrocortisone creams are available by prescription. If none of these work for you, a thin coating of Vaseline will protect against bacterial invasion of the follicles. If you have oily skin, or are prone to acne, avoid greasy ointments (bacitracin), or oily creams (hydrocortisone).

Integrate your electrolysis with your total facial care program. Electrolysis makes your face more vulnerable to the ravages of life. One patient broke out in a rash two days after his first treatment, even though he had used the salt and water rinses and bacitracin. I told him he must be allergic to the bacitracin, so he should use hydrocortisone. The next week he had the same problem. We then used hydrogen peroxide soaks immediately after the treatment, followed by the salt soaks. He then called back and said he had had another rash. I then asked him what he did with his face as regular care. He said he used an electric razor to shave with, and after shaving, he splashed cold water on his face. He washed his face, but he had never washed his razor. The bacteria from the shavings and the dead skin cells on the razor were infecting his face because of the greater vulnerability after the electrolysis.

The effects of electrolysis should heal quickly and with little discomfort. If scars, discoloration, rashes, bumps, or continuous discomfort occur, something should be changed in your treatment, in your after care program, or both.

[end]

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(From TV Guise, July, 1991, Billie Jean Jones, Editor and Publisher, 3430 Balmoral Drive #10, Sacramento, CA 95821. Reprinted with permission.)

EDITORIAL:

SOLUTION? WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

by Billie Jean Jones

There has been a lot of talk floating around gender-related meetings, newsletters, the magazine Tapestry, even the television shows, regarding acceptance and civil rights for cross-dressers, transvestites, transgenderists, and transsexuals. Many people see this as an opportunity to go to war, to carry the shield, fight the good fight, slay the enemy. Those people scare me.

The Pogo comic strip once summed it up very well, "We have met the enemy, and he is us."

Will we become the victims of our own war? Do we need a war? Are we going to repeat the mistakes of the past?

Who among us believes our American culture, as it exists today, is satisfactory in respect to civil rights, prejudice, and discrimination? Personally, I do not. Nor do I believe our education and health care systems are satisfactory. And I firmly believe our political system suffers from the nearly absolute control of the wealthy.

Be that as it may, who among us believes that using the techniques that got us where we are today will make anything better?

I'm talking about the proposed assault on local, state, and federal legislative bodies to add specific wording to include civil rights for CD/TV/TG/TS individuals, and the changing of the definitions in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Third Edition (DSM-3-R).

What distresses me is the approach that states that the DSM-3-R has defined transvestites as sick, abnormal people, that I should be ashamed to have this label applied to me. But, that's not what the Manual states. It says that I have a disorder if I suffer distress, disability, or daredeviling -- regardless of the potential root cause: transvestism, transsexualism, epilepsy, whatever.

Through lack of education, most psychiatrists equate cross-dressing with a disorder, even when none of the three conditions listed above applies. That is a case of ignorance, not of bad definition. Additionally, the committee charged with reviewing the criteria for the next edition of the Manual has stated that there will be no changes without supporting research findings. Expert opinion will no longer be sufficient grounds for changing a definition.

Before some of us go marching off to war, shouldn't we all look at the ramifications, and the possible results, before either joining the army, or dodging the draft? Isn't the basic issue this: What do we want to be accepted for? And, Which Us are we talking about, here?

Who dares to speak for me? For you?

Who dares to tell me what and who I am? Who you are?

Cowards? Fools? Idiots? (Self-appointed leaders?)

I really don't know. Can't we all discuss it first, then debate it, then find a consensus that encompasses our diversity, and then mobilize a campaign of education?

I would support that.

But first, I believe we must individually define ourselves. It is our right, and we must take that right, or have it taken from us. Secondly, I believe we must individually define what we want to be accepted for.

Personally, I do not suffer a lack of rights, civil or otherwise. No one, besides myself, has ever stopped me from doing what I wanted to do for myself -- although I have slowly come to the realization that I can't achieve perfection, or tell anyone else what to do.

So, I don't have any thoughts of what I want to be accepted for, other than that I want to continue to take my right to be myself.

However, I do realize that some legislation needs to be modified/added to ensure the legal recognition of all citizens, starting with the Equal Rights Amendment for women, followed by all ethnic groups, gays, lesbians, everybody.

In fact, I believe that if the gender-related community actively supported these causes in a visible manner within the larger community, then the gender-related community would gain powerful support from those who had been helped (and educated), in addition to defining what level of acceptance was lacking and needed to be changed.

Isn't it time we all started to demonstrate our value, our honor? How else can we take our rightful place in society?

For me, cross-dressing is not an end-all, be-all thing. It can be an enjoyable aspect of my total personage when I'm integrating my molecules in the Dance of Life.

(My molecules are dancing that Shiva/Shakti spin

I hope that you can feel the Yin and

Yang we're in.)

Last Monday, I was talking to a person, an ex-biker, now public cross-dresser. I asked her the question of what the gender-related community wants to be accepted for. She, unlike most people I have asked, had an answer: "I just want to be ignored."

"A face in the crowd?" I asked.

"Yeah, more or less."

Upon reflection, I've taken this to mean we may want to be allowed to express ourselves without being harassed, attacked, fired, evicted, paid less, cheated, or made the butt of jokes. But, it could also mean many of us want to hide.

I'm not hiding.

I'm proud to be an Androgyne.

Last month, a person told me I should feel ashamed to call myself a transvestite, and ridiculed the name of this newspaper, "TV Guise" (a triple pun, by the way).

I'm not ashamed.

I'm proud to be a TV -- I come in many different colors, on many different channels, and at many different times.

I'm waving my freak flag high.

How about you?

[end]

EDITORIAL:

ON CHILD CUSTODY

by Mary Ann Harris

Caryn Kristen Roberts writes:

I don't see them much now, they moved back to Tennessee after my SRS and live with their other parent. But we do talk. And write. And I send them money and presents and lotsa love. They call me Caryn, and sometimes even "Mom" when their other parent is not around. My thirteen-year-old son (he was eleven at the time) said,

"Can I live with you?"

"Kevin," I said, "I am sorry, but you know the court and your mother won't let you. Why do you want to?"

"To see what it's like."

"But son, you know what it's like to live with me. You have lived with me all your life."

"Yeah, I know. But I want to see what it's like to live with you now that you are happy."

Outa the mouths of babes, huh?

Maybe someday he will. Maybe not. But he knows I love him. And they all know I am happy and at peace.

What was that again?

"I am sorry, but you know the court and your mother won't let you."

How many times have you heard this? A married couple with children breaks up, and the father is TV or TS. The court takes steps to ensure that the mother gets custody, and, more often than not, the father loses all contact with the child. There is some kind of presumption on the part of the court that exposure to gender issues would be harmful to the child.

I've met a lot of people over the past few years with gender issues. Many of them are divorced. In a society where it is very rare for a "normal male" to have custody of his children, I am amazed to find a large percentage of the divorced cross-dressers I know that have custody of their children.

But, on second thought, why should this be so amazing? After all, why is it that most often custody goes to the mother? Why do so many men refuse to have anything to do with their children? Why do so many judges make comments like Judge Stillwell of Logan County, Ohio: "I can't see why any man would want visitation with his young child, anyway."

I think it's because so many men are "macho." They see child-rearing as "woman's work" and refuse to "lower" themselves to that level. After all, they earn the money, they rule the roost, and they would rather sit on the couch, get drunk, watch football, and let their wives take care of messy little details like changing diapers. Getting married in the first place may not have been their idea, and if they can get out with their wallet intact, they may be able to chase anything in a skirt again and hope to avoid the consequences.

Can you imagine such a man with custody of his child? Most such men will not even consider custody, and will seek to avoid child support. Must be testosterone poisoning.

Of course, not all men are like this. Many modern men have been involved with their children since they assisted in the delivery room. Got up at night for the 3 am feeding. Changed messy diapers. Many of these men would make perfectly good single parents, and many of them want custody when divorce comes.

You can guess which group TV's and TS's fit into.

Yet, when we go to court, we find that if the judge knows about our cross-dressing background, we are at an even bigger disadvantage than typical men. Not only are we representatives of that macho group that only wants to leave and abandon their wife and children, but are weird, too. Two strikes against us from the start. Caryn no doubt, ran into this same thing - I'm sure many of us did.

But, what about that five-percent of the male population that actually manages to get custody of their children? What is so special about them that they can beat out a "normal" woman?

The typical custodial father is very involved with his children. He takes loads of time to spend with them. Nurtures them. Changes dirty diapers and kisses boo-boos to make them better. Stays home with them when they get sick. Tells them he loves them several times a day, and hugs them when they need a hug, or when he needs one. Gripes to his friends about all the trouble they get in, but is always there getting them out of trouble. In short, this man is a good mother. He has all the feminine nurturing qualities that are important in a parent.

Being a cross-dresser isn't something we turn on and off with a change of clothing. Whether TV or TS, we are essentially the same person in both the masculine and the feminine roles. If we have feminine qualities as a woman, we have those as a man. It should be no surprise that a cross-dresser is actually a very good candidate to be the best parent for a child. Those nurturing qualities will show through in their male parenting role. No wonder so many cross-dressers are winning custody. I'll bet some of those macho types might even call you a sissy if you have custody.

So why is cross-dressing such a handicap in the courtroom? Why does the law list transvestism and transsexualism as grounds for divorce? Why can't we wear our dresses proudly into the courtroom and announce to the judge that we are good mothers too?

If you think about it, the logic of the court is nonsensical:

Women are better parents than men because they are nurturing and less macho.

Transsexuals are not real men, they are different and weird, more like women.

Therefore, transsexuals are unfit parents because they are too much like women.

Pretty warped logic, but it's going on in front of us all the time. Not only are TS's afraid to ask for custody, but they are being totally cut off from their children by the embittered mothers who could not handle their husbands' gender dysphoria, and by conservative judges who do not understand them and want to get home to be served dinner by their faithful wife who has stayed home all day cooking, cleaning, and taking care of the children.

Things are changing, but they are changing slowly. Younger judges are being elected to the bench who are not so wedded to the concept of a male breadwinner and a female homemaker. Female judges are becoming more common, and are less likely to believe in stereotypes. Laws have been rewritten to be less sexist. The "tender years doctrine" stating that very young children should always be in the care of their mother has been repealed. There is progress on all of these fronts except one.

The typical court has no idea that TV's and TS's are anything other than freaks. They do not realize that we are probably better parents than the average male. They need to be educated.

Folks, that education isn't going to happen unless we make it happen. People in academia need to conduct studies to show that TV's and TS's are good parents, that their gender issues do not impact on their parenting ability, and that they are probably better parents than typical men. They need to show that a higher percentage of divorced cross-dressers have custody of their children than of the general divorced male population. Does some graduate student need a thesis topic?

Those of us going into a divorce should not blindly concede custody to the ex-wife. If you want it, (and what card-carrying woman wouldn't want her children?) you have to fight for it. Get a psychologist to testify on your behalf. Fight for lots of visitation. The current thinking is that children benefit from lots of contact with *both* parents, and joint custody is becoming more and more common. Don't let them use your gender dysphoria as an excuse to separate you from your children. Your children need you. Fight for them and be there for them!

I hope to see the day when being a cross-dresser will be seen for what it really is: an asset, not a perversion.

[The quotes are courtesy of Caryn Kristen Roberts, Executive Director of the Ingersoll Gender Center, 1812 E. Madison, Suite 106, Seattle WA 98122-2843.]

[end]

(Reprinted from the "Neutral Corner Newsletter," Issue 73, June, 1991, P O Box 12581, San Diego, CA 92112, where the article first appeared, with permission of the author, who holds the copyright. Susan Edwards is a gender counselor who lives and works in San Diego. She is currently working on her doctorate in psychology at San Diego State University.)

WHAT ARE "FEMININE" FEELINGS?

by Susan Edwards, MA

Almost every speaking engagement that I have been on, I get a question that more or less asks what the difference is in "feeling" between being transsexual and being transvestite. They are in a sense asking, "How do you know that you want to do this?" It is a question that I have heard asked by many of my friends in the Gender Community. Many clients I have counselled in therapy have asked the same question. I heard it asked at the first Neutral Corner meeting I attended. It would seem that for many, the release of the "feminine" part of their identity through cross-dressing leads to a logic something like, "If some is good and more is better, then a lot more is better still, ergo, I must be a transsexual."

A friend of mine (I'll use the name Anne) came out a couple of years ago. Being out, dressed in public was a thrill. Having the opportunity of both time and money, she spent a good deal of time perfecting her feminine persona. the elation that she felt was not only about the clothes, but also about freedom, the freedom to feel beyond the bounds of the narrow range of emotions that bind the masculine role in this culture. Anne was learning that she had great capacity for the more tender, nurturing, 'feminine' feelings. For her to express them felt good. It opened a whole new world of caring for her, not only about others, but also about herself. Never before, as a man, had she stopped to take care of herself. She had felt that to take the time to do nice things for herself wasn't manly, that she was bound to a role of Stoic endurance. She found what real joy there was in the simple pleasures of taking care of one's own needs. Even to the simple things like a concern for appearance, or making the time for a relaxing bath. Her own need to be liked by herself was finally being met while in the feminine role. So, because it felt good, both physically and psychically, Anne wanted to stay in the role and in the persona she had allowed and created for herself, a place where she could go on experiencing these "feminine" feelings.

It was then that she began to talk about being transsexual, and of wondering if she could go through with it, and all the other anxieties of that fateful decision. Talking to her one day, she was going on about how "Bob" would never do this, and "Bob" was such a jerk because he never could do that, when I asked her who the hell she was talking about. "Well, me, of course." If that was so, I asked, why didn't she just say "me" instead of "Bob"? For, if it was she who didn't do those things, wasn't she trying to disown and evade responsibility for her own actions by ascribing them to this other person "Bob"?

If, as we profess, we are facing our individual gender issues openly to feel better about ourselves, then it would seem to me that we would want to feel that way all of the time, regardless of how we were dressed, or what gender role we happened to be filling at any particular moment. In a rap group that I was in, one of the subjects being discussed was, "feeling feminine." The talk centered around how you felt when all decked out in some frock, with the stockings, and the "Get down and get dirty pumps." The facilitator listened for awhile, and finally posed this situation: It's eleven at night, you are almost ready for bed, when you remember that you are out of razor blades. So, you pull on a pair of jeans and throw on a T-shirt and hoof it on down to the 7-11. Now the question is, do you feel any less feminine? Does who you are and how you feel about yourself depend that much on what you are wearing? Does your mode of dress dictate what you may allow yourself to feel, and how you act on those feelings?

Just as our culture has defined different modes of dress for the sexes, the culturally defined gender roles can also be seen as limiting the allowed modes of emotional expression. Our socialization as males teaches us that, "Big boys don't cry," and to show empathy and sensitivity towards the feelings of others is somehow to be "sissy." Men should be hard and cold and unfeeling. We must be the strong and silent type like John Wayne. But, having those feelings and those emotions is not a matter of gender, rather, they are natural and normal human expressions. For many of us, the reaction to having the need to express those facets of our personalities that are culturally defined as feminine, we make it alright to do so by assuming the culturally appropriate role, i.e. we dress up in women's clothes. We then put ourselves into a psychic closet. Rather than have anyone suspect that we would have such "unnatural" feelings, we disallow them. We hide in a role that is hyper-masculine. It is only in the privacy of the closet where we dress in the outward symbols of those repressed feelings, that we allow ourselves to open up to those emotions that society has labeled as feminine.

Like Anne, many of us have divided our emotional life into gender roles. We jump from one gender box to another. When dressed, there is the constant worry of passing, not just of looks, but of behavior. On the one hand we rail about the limitations of the masculine role, and on the other we gladly take on the restrictions of a role that would have made Queen Victoria a fellow traveler of Gloria

Steinem. In looking at my own issues, I began to understand that for me, I had to be emotionally a whole person. Defining myself was not about sex, or about gender, per se, it was about integrating all parts of myself into someone I liked. I am not a different person emotionally if I am wearing hose and heels, or if I am wearing jeans and tennis shoes.

There is in the Gender Community a popular rationale for crossdressing behavior, that by indulging in such behavior, it "allows" men to feel those emotions which are outside the cultural and social boundaries of the male role. It has even been touted as a form of men's liberation. Perhaps, but I think it offers more a gateway, a means and a mode to become a fully feeling person, unrestricted by the socio-cultural definitions of what is or is not gender appropriate behavior. It is a stage to a sum that is greater than any of its individual parts. Emotion has no gender, feeling has no sex. Permission to feel soft, or vulnerable, or nurturing, much less strong, or aggressive, or protecting is not granted by the clothes we wear, but by the quality of the person we are. In this respect, the issues are not those of gender, but, to quote E. E. Cummings, rather those of " . . . simply Human-being."

So, to answer the question of how do you know if you are or are not transsexual, you must look for the answer beyond the trappings and the restrictions of both gender roles. You must see yourself as the best person you can. For Anne, she found that when "Bob" started to put away his macho attitude and started to loosen up, and to acknowledge and allow the full range of his emotional palette, he found himself beyond the self-imposed limitations of how he had perceived the way both men and women should act. Anne/Bob was no longer leading separate emotional lives defined by culturally dictated gender roles. It gave him/her the space to decide and to really know how he/she felt, not as a man or as a woman, but as a person. Bob decided that on the whole, he was more comfortable with his genitals the way they were. The need to define him/herself as being solely one gender or the other had lost the urgency it once held. Bob is much happier, and so is Anne.

If we do this right, our transgendered experience, TV, TS, or TG, can be a great opportunity to grow into the people we wish to be. In the play, "Hidden, a Gender" by Kate Bornstein, is the line, "Gender, it can either be a battleground or a playground." Decide what you are after you have thought about who you are.

[end]

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(With apologies to Domino Pizza) *Thanx Wendy Parker*

SPECIAL FEATURE

PHOTO ALBUM -- PART II

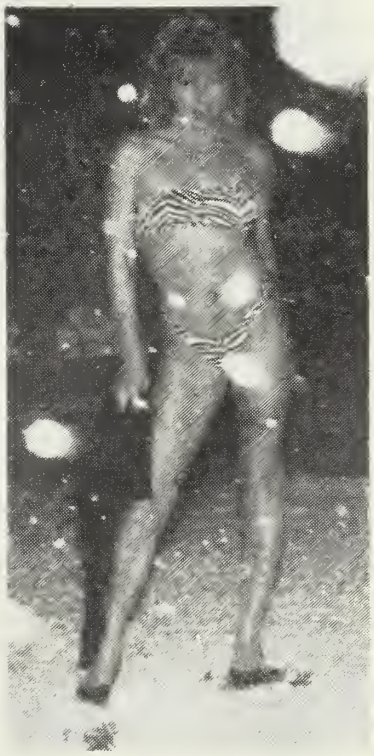
'COMING TOGETHER - WORKING TOGETHER' CONVENTION 1991

PRE-CON AT COPPER MOUNTAIN

See Kerri ski!
See Kerri crash!

See Merissa ski! See Merissa crash!
See Merissa's comment expressed by the left hand!

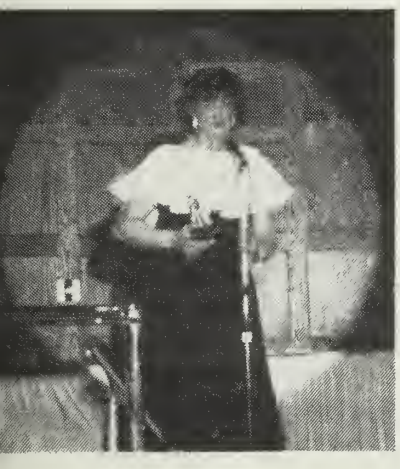
<< Is this your idea of a bathing suit?

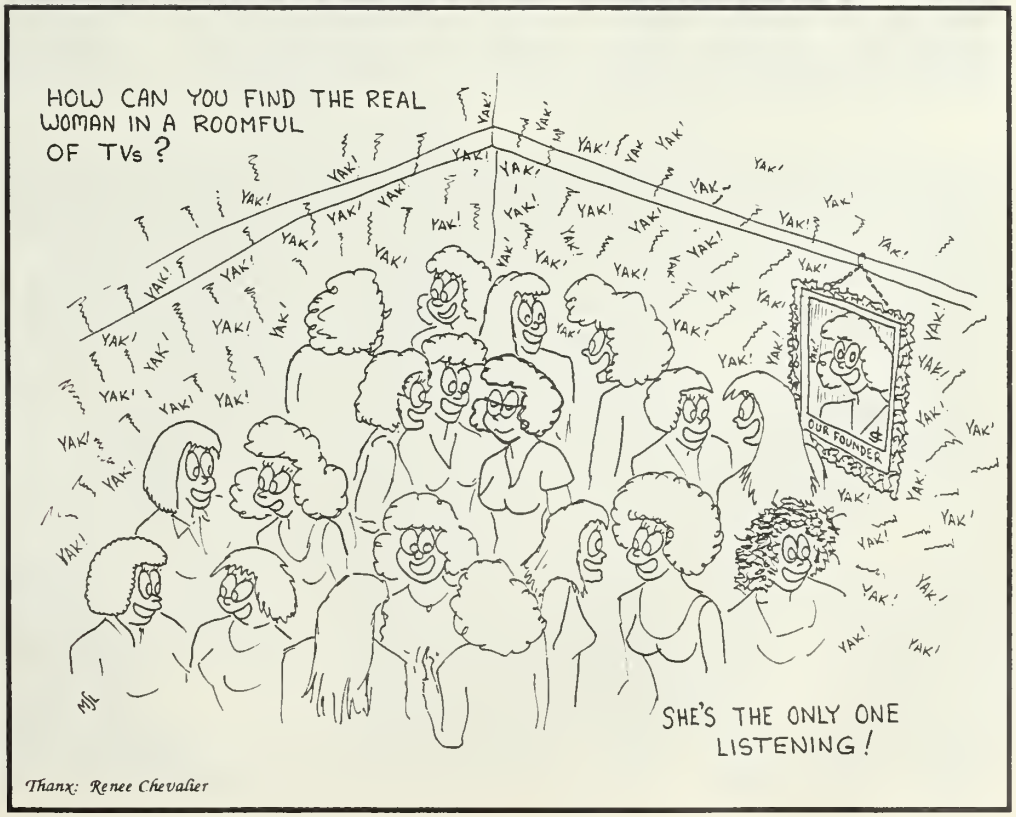


Yes, that's real snow.
Yes, Da'nelle's crazy!

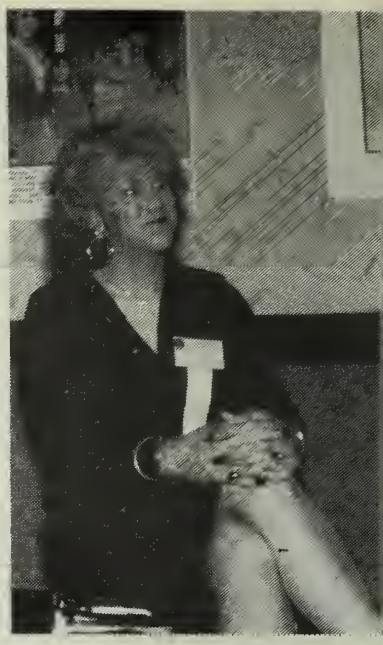
Not bad for 78, eh?

Hulk Hogan, eat your heart out!





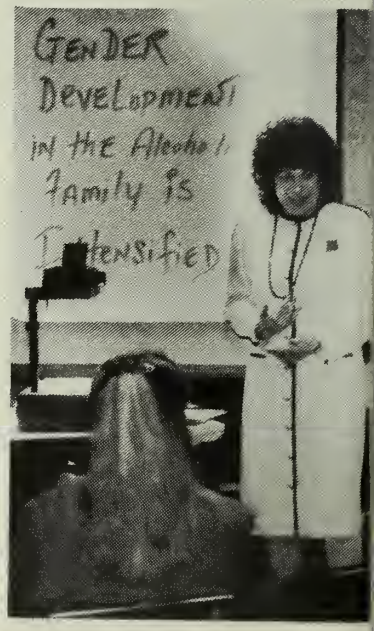
Thanx: Renee Chevalier



When I started it was this big.

When I started it was this big.

When I finished it was this big.



AT THE CASA BONITA

What did you say was in this?

Whoops! One taco too many.

Oh my God! No smoking, no way out, and I just ate at a Mexican restaurant.

This is the ladies room. You can't come in.

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Texas 'T' Party

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or call Linda or Cynthia (512) 438-7604.

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For Information and Registration:

The International Foundation for Gender Education
P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778
1-617-894-8340
Offices: 6 Cushing St, Waltham, MA

Host Organizations:

Gulf Coast Transgender Community,
Tau Chi Chapter-Tri Ess,
Boulton & Park Society,
Delta Omega Chapter - Tri Ess,
Woman Associated With Crossdressers,
& Heart of Texas Alliance

CALENDAR OF MAJOR EVENTS 1991-1992

If you have an event of Regional, National, or International interest, please send your information to:
IFGE Update, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

October 3-6, 1991
1st Annual 'SOUTHERN COMFORT', Atlanta
Sigma Epsilon, Linda Peacock, P.O. Box 7241, Tallahassee, FL 32314-7241

October 3-6, 1991
1st Annual 'SE CONVENTION TS PROGRAM'
Montogmery Medical & Psychologhical Institute, P.O. Box 33311, Decatur, GA 30033 404-603-9426

October 4-6, 1991
2nd Annual 'AUTUMN ACCORD', Syracuse
EON, Box 6293, Camillus, NY 13031 (716) 251-2316

October 11-13, 1991
8th Annual 'P-TOWN COUPLES OUTING', Provincetown
TCNE-WSG, P.O. Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888 508-358-2305

October 18-27, 1991
17th Annual 'FANTASIA FAIR', Provincetown
Outreach Institute, 405 Western Ave.., Suite 345, South Portland, ME 04106

October 25-27, 1991
'DRESSING FOR PLEASURE '91', Newark
Marie Constance, Constance Enterprises, Box 43277, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043 201-746-0072

October 26, 1991
32nd Annual 'GGRC HALLOWEEN COSTUME BALL', Los Angeles
Hollywood Palladium, 6215 Sunset Blvd, Hollywood, CA

October 31 - November 3, 1991
2nd Annual 'FALL HARVEST WEEKEND', Kansas City
CAF, Box 4092, Overland Park, KS 66204 (913) 268-66204

November 1-3, 1991
4th Annual 'INTER-GROUP HARMONY WEEKEND', England
Martine Rose, P.O. Bx 339, Sheffield S1 3SX England

November 8-10, 1991
FANTASY ADVENTURE WEEKEND, Houston
Gulf coast Transgender Community, Box 90335, Houston, TX 77090 Jackie Thorne, President, 713-780-3553

November 20-24, 1991
17th Annual 'TRI-ESS HOLIDAY EN FEMME', Chicago
Chi Chapter, P.O. Box 342, Chicago, IL 60690

December 1-7, 1991
OFF THE RACK MODELING ADVENTURE, Oregon
JPD Productions, 320 SW Stark #211, Portland, OR 503-243-1275

December (TBA), 1991
Annual 'MISS CGS PAGEANT', Chicago
CGS, Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657

December (TBA), 1991
Annual 'PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ', Banquet, Chicago
Chi Chapter, Box 40, Wooddale, IL 60191-0040

January 11, 1992
8th Annual 'MISS ETVC COTILLION', San Francisco
ETVC, P.O. Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486 510-549-2665

January (TBA), 1992
10th Annual 'WINTER GETAWAY', Boston
TCNE, P.O. Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888 508-358-2305

February 28 - March 1, 1992
5th Annual 'TEXAS T-PARTY', San Antonio
Texas 'T' Party, P.O. Box 17, Bulverde, TX 78163 (512) 438-7604

March (TBA), 1992
'LAMBDA BALL', Pittsburgh
Transpitt, Box 3214, Pittsburgh, PA 15230

March (TBA), 1992
5th Annual 'NIGHT OF A 1000 GOWNS', NYC
Imperial Court of New York, c/o Ben Freeman, 200 East 16th Street, Suite 2M, NYC, NY 10003 212-673-7633

April 6-12, 1992
6th Annual 'COMING TOGETHER' CONVENTION, Houston
IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 617-894-8340

April 29-May 3, 1992
2nd Annual 'CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'', Los Angeles
PPOC, P.O. Box 9091, Anaheim, CA 92812 714-779-9013

May 13-17, 1992
'ESPRIT 92', Port Angeles, WA
Esprit 92, P.O. Box 55874, Seattle, WA 98155

May (TBA), 1992
'POCONOS FANTASY FESTIVAL'
Fem Fashions, 9W 31st St, #7R, NYC, NY 10001 212-629-5750

May (TBA), 1992
'PARADISE IN THE POCONOS'
Creative Design Services, Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406 215-640-9449

June (TBA), 1992
12th Annual 'TIFFANY P-TOWN OUTING'
TCNE, P.O. Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888 508-358-2305

June 11-14, 1992
10th Annual 'BE ALL YOU WANT TO BE', Detroit
Crossroads, Box 1245, Royal Oak, MI 48068-1245

September (TBA), 1992
2nd Annual 'NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE NEW WOMAN (Massachusetts)
Outreach Institute, 405 Western Ave., Suite 345, South Portland, ME 04106

September 10-18, 1992
'THE DIGNITY CRUISE' (Alaska)
(sponsored by PM Publishers) Cruise Ahoy, Anne McLaughlin, President, 11211 Katy Freeway, #300, Houston, TX 77079 713-556-1513

September (TBA), 1992
'PARADISE IN THE POCONOS'
Creative Design Services, P.O. Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406 215-640-9949

October 16-25, 1992
18th Annual 'FANTASIA FAIR', Provincetown
Outreach Institute, 405 Western Ave., Suite 345, South Portland, ME 04106

March (TBA), 1993
7th Annual 'COMING TOGETHER' CONVENTION, Philadelphia
IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 617-894-8340

BULLETINS, NOTICES, NEWS

DIGNITY CRUISE A SUCCESS

Katy, TX: The Dignity Cruise was a wonderful success. The greatest value of our experiences together could have been the feeling of personal dignity and the respect which was so visible. This was one of our goals. After completing, Crossdressing with Dignity, I pondered the issue of public acceptance. I asked the questions, How do we as individuals, and as a highly organized body of kindred spirits move beyond ourselves into the world? How can the forward motion portray the dynamic value of our people? I saw the cruise as a way to make this happen.

As the plans unfolded, it seemed important to maintain our identity as members of a very special community. It was also important to move out into a beautiful atmosphere and move among other beautiful people. I knew a second rate cruise line would not be adequate for this undertaking. We found the perfect atmosphere in the Royal Caribbean Line's Nordic Empress. She provided the surroundings and set the mood for a magical world. She transformed some of our girls into princesses, and gave all of us a chance to touch the full spectrum of personality.

Dignity Cruise 2 is booked with Royal Caribbean Lines again. It will sail on May 31, 1992, and return June 7, 1992. For more information, write:

Dignity Cruise 2
c/o Dr. Peggy Rudd
P O Box 5304
Katy TX 77491-5304

ESPRIT 91 CONTRIBUTION MADE

Seattle, WA: The ESPRIT 91 Committee is pleased to announce a donation of $200 to Umbrella Community Services of Port Angeles, Washington. Janice Van Cleve, Treasurer for ESPRIT 91, returned to Port Angeles in person to present the check to Mollie Aalbue, Clinical Director of Umbrella Community Services, on June 22nd. Janice said, "We have been so warmly welcomed by this friendly city that we really felt we wanted to return something to the local community. We wanted to share the blessings we have received here with a locally based charity, particularly one that helps women." Umbrella Community Services had been recommended by the local churches.

ESPRIT 91 was the second annual transvestite convention to be held in Port Angeles. Building on the success of 90 in 90, ESPRIT 91 brought together eighty transvestites and their wives from all over the continent - from Tennessee to California, Florida to Massachusetts, Illinois, Texas, New York, Kansas, as well as Oregon and Washington. There were twenty-one visitors from Canada as well. All were treated to a dazzling array of banquets and parties, educational classes, guest speakers and events - including a cruise to Victoria, BC, for High Tea at the stately Empress Hotel. The Red Lion/Bayshore Inn provided first class accommodations, and Haguewood's Restaurant catered the event deliciously. The convention closed with attendance at the Lutheran, Baptist, Methodist, and Catholic churches.

Of course, there was plenty of shopping as well. The convention pumped over $24,000 into the Port Angeles economy. That included over $400 in "ducks" which the transvestites bought in support of a very clever charity drive to benefit the Port Angeles Hospital. "It costs a lot of money to travel to these conventions and afford all the gowns and finery that were on magnificent display at ESPRIT 91," Janice remarked. "These people have that kind of money and are spending it when they get here." Port Angeles storekeepers welcomed them gladly.

This year's convention was sponsored by three transvestite organizations: The Emerald City (Seattle), Cornbury Society (Vancouver, BC), and North West Gender Alliance (Portland, OR). Michelle Lee, Convention Director, was supported by a staff representing each of the three organizations. "The reason we put on these conventions is to give our people a chance to get out of the closet and enjoy the opposite gender role for a few days," explained Van Cleve. "Of course, it is a one-sided experience: they don't come here to change diapers, do the laundry, hold down a job for secondary wages, and try to keep house. This is just a party and we realize that!" Afterwards, the transvestites returned home to their jobs as bankers, loggers, police, ministers, waiters, truck drivers, and retired pensioners.

"We thank the mayor and the city council for welcoming us, and look for-

ward to ESPRIT 92 next year," concluded Van Cleve. "Port Angeles really shows down-home friendliness!"

ESPRIT 92

90 in 90, ESPRIT 91, beautiful, but only a foretaste of what awaits you at ESPRIT 92! Five fun-filled days of parties, dinners, classes, special events, and lots of fun.

MAY 13-17, 1992
RED LION/BAYSHORE INN
PORT ANGELES, WASHINGTON

Come and enjoy an ocean cruise, High Tea in the proper British tradition, Las Vegas Night, Jim Bridges' boutique, classes, speakers, dining and dancing. Sponsored by the Emerald City (Seattle) NWGA (Portland), and Cornbury Society (Vancouver, BC). For reservations write:

ESPRIT 92, P O Box 1054, Sumner WA 98390

DORIS FISH
(PHILIP C. MILLS)
AUGUST 11, 1952 - JUNE 22, 1991

San Francisco, CA: Doris Fish died peacefully at 5:00am on Saturday, June 22, 1991 after a courageous four-year struggle with AIDS. Her lover Marcel Delgado, and her mother Mildred Mills, were at her side when she passed away.

San Francisco's most famous and beloved drag queen was born Philip Clargo Mills in Manly Vale, Australia. Already well-known as a notorious entertainment figure in her home town of Sydney for her drag guerilla theater troupe, SYLVIA AND THE SYNTHETICS, Doris Fish burst onto the local underground theater scene in 1976 when she was discovered as the winner of the Tubes' talent contest at Bimbo's 365 Club. Since then, she has ruled as figurehead and goddess of Sluts A-Go-Go, San Francisco's premiere drag troupe of the 1980's

Along with her cohorts Miss X and Tippi, Sluts A-Go-Go created, wrote, and appeared in now renown nightclub sensations including BLONDE SIN, SCREAM GIRLS, and BOX OFFICE POISON. Other club appearances have included THE HAPPY HOUR SHOW and Marc Huestis' NAKED BRUNCH at the now defunct Club 181.

Highly regarded for many years for her stand-up work and roles in light comedy, Doris Fish's reputation as a serious actress began in 1987 un Philip R. Ford's wildly popular production of BAD SEED at Theater Rhinoceros. In 1989 Fish went on to achieve critical acclaim in the role of Madame Irma in Jean Genet's THE BALCONY, directed by the late Leland Moss.

Miss Fish's numerous film credits have included Huestis' CHUCK SOLOMON: COMING OF AGE and Ford's forthcoming feature VEGAS IN SPACE, which is scheduled for a world premiere at San Francisco's Castro Theater on October 11, 1991. Fish not only stars in the film, but also served as the executive producer and art director.

Claiming for herself the title GREETING CARD QUEEN OF AMERICA, Doris is perhaps best known as West Graphic's top comedy model for her hundreds of appearances on their successful international card line.

Respected as an entertainer, actress, comedienne, activist, and journalist (she wrote a weekly column for the San Francisco Sentinel throughout 1989 and 1990), Doris Fish was also an accomplished painter. Her photorealistic portraits have been exhibited internationally. In 1991 she received a Cable Car Award as San Francisco's Outstanding Entertainer of the Year.

Last fall a cast of local entertainers paid tribute to the legendary Doris Fish in WHO DOES THAT BITCH THINK SHE IS? a gala event featuring performances by many of those with whom she had worked, and highlights from her nearly fifteen years of film, theater, and nightclub appearances. This sold-out extravaganza succeeded in raising over $10,000 for Doris's medical and living expenses.

In recognition of her contribution to the city's artistic community, November 3, 1990 was declared Doris Fish Day in San Francisco by Mayor Art Agnos.

In addition to her lover Marcel and mother Mildred, Doris is survived by her father Tony Mills, brothers Andrew Mills and Michael Mills, sisters Mary Ann Haid and Elizabeth Baker, and countless performers, friends, and fans who loved Doris both onstage and off.

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FIRST CONFERENCE FOR THE NEW WOMAN HELD

Essex, MA: The first National Conference for the New Woman was held on the weekend of September twentieth through the twenty-second at the Essex Conference Center in Essex, MA. Two years in the planning, the conference was for transsexual women who have had sex reassignment surgery. Twenty transsexuals attended, plus one non-transsexual woman, and Ariadne Kane of the Human Outreach and Achievement Institute, the sponsor of the event.

The Essex Center, with its magnificent woods, pond, sculptures, its comfortable rooms and superb natural cooking provided a wonderful setting for the new women to discover a sense of community and a common heritage. Presenters Dr. Nancy Ledins and Dr. Jayne Thomas, and facilitator Christina Young spoke several times of changing their planned agendas as ideas and feelings emerged through the weekend. There were speeches by Nancy and Jayne as well as workshops on topics chosen by the attendees.

The conference began on Friday evening with a blessing from Rena Swifthawk, a new woman who is a Native American shaman. Attendees then spoke of why they had come, and what they hoped to learn and to share in the weekend. Themes of healing and service continued through the conference as many attendees spoke of transsexuals in other cultures being healers, shamans, and medicine women. Other topics included the question of self-disclosure (especially to potential mates), transsexual pride and dignity, conflicts with feminists, spirituality, social acceptance, and pride. Informal discussions continued throughout the weekend, at meals, in the hot tub, at a campfire sing-along, on walks around the property, and on the beach.

Sunday began with an outdoor prayer service led by Nancy Ledins and Rena Swifthawk. Later, in the final discussion, Christina Young spoke of the opportunity to begin a movement. Members agreed to contribute to a newsletter, and to discuss starting an organization of new women. Attendee Rachel Pollack then suggested that the more long-term new women create a ritual of "welcoming" for those who have had SRS in the last year.

The conference ended with a commitment to meet again in 1992.

CALL TO A NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRANSGENDER LAW

Houston, TX: Tentative date and location: weekend of August 21-22, 1992, in Houston, Texas. Both are being proposed because of the good possibility of being held at the University of Houston Law Center campus during the two-week window between classes, and because of convenience to Hobby Airport. Conference may also be held somewhere else in Houston while possibly retaining the UH Law Center affiliation. Houston is proposed due to central location and because of conference initiator's locale.

Two types of conference are being proposed:

1. Presentation by speakers: This is the familiar type with presentation by experts in various fields of law. It is the passive approach to legal education that is experienced at most legal conferences.

   Negatives: Doesn't allow much creativity from the audience and is less efficient as to focusing on how to effect change.

   Positives: Easy to produce, good opportunity for future networking, presents the current status of the law, easy to document, easy for media to cover.

2. Committee workshop type: Here, people with interests and expertise in similar areas of law meet in committees and through workshopping techniques explore their area of law and arrive at a consensus as to the present status of the law with an examination of current deficiencies and a strategy to overcome those deficiencies. It encourages active participation in order to yield positive action. Each committee then delivers a written report to the entire body during the final afternoon gathering.

   Negatives: Much harder to coordinate event, much harder to manage each workshop, imperative that egos be held in check.

   Positives: If negatives overcome, it is more efficient in generating momentum toward focused and progressive changes

Both types should discuss family, military, probate, housing, employment, insurance, criminal, discrimination, health and other areas of law and can produce post-conference proceedings.

All attorneys, paralegals, law enforcement officers, judges and magistrates, law students, and anyone interested in law that relates to and affects the entire transgender community are welcome. **ARE YOU INTERESTED?** Write the initiator of this conference: **Phyllis Randolph Frye, Attorney, 5707 Firenza Street, Houston TX 77035-5515.**

(Note: Phyllis has been Phyllis since 1976 and has actively practiced law as Phyllis since 1986. She asks that you photocopy this and send it to anyone and everyone, and that all TG group newsletters from around the nation copy it from other newsletters. Let's get the word out quickly and begin some face-to-face discussions at the Fantasy Adventure Weekend in Houston, November 8-10, 1991.)

Timetable:
February 28-March 1, 1992, Texas T Party, San Antonio: Preliminary plans.
April 6-12, 1992, IFGE Convention, Houston: Finalize plans.
May 8-10, 1992 Fantasy Adventure Weekend, Houston: Early discussions.

TRANSSEXUAL STUDY NEEDS DATA FROM POST-OPS

I am a final year student at Cardiff University intending to do a study on transsexualism for my final year project. In particular I would like to cover the area of gender reassignment surgery and how post operative transsexuals adapt to everyday life afterwards. The issues that are of particular interest to me are: how supportive the transsexual finds friends and family to be after surgery, any career changes after surgery, any legal problems the post-operative transsexual has encountered, health - both physical and mental resulting from reassignment, as well as relationship improvement/dissatisfaction since surgery.

I would be very grateful if readers (post-operative transsexuals of either direction) could write in with their stories and histories, including how they actually managed and dealt with the problems of adapting to society after reassignment, and of any rewards and improvements to their lives now that they can be themselves. I would also like to hear of any regrets if these are present.

ANDREA LEES
79 TELFORD AVENUE
LEAMINGTON SPA
WARWICKSHIRE CV32 7HQ ENGLAND

THE ATLANTA EDUCATIONAL GENDER INFORMATION SERVICE (AEGIS)

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DECATUR GA 30033

(404) 939-0244 (help line)
(404) 939-2128

The Atlanta Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS) is pleased to announce the formation of a gender support group. The group is open to all transgendered persons, and meets at 4:00pm the third Saturday of every month in the offices of a counseling professional in the Metropolitan Atlanta area. Fees are minimal ($3.00 at the door). The group is co-led by Ms. Dallas Denny, MA, a Licensed Psychological Examiner (Tennessee), and Ms. Carol Miller, MA, a Licensed Professional Counselor (Georgia). Issues of self-discovery, role exploration, and practical concerns are addressed in the group, which features occasional guest speakers.

AEGIS is also pleased to announce the formation of an advisory board, which will consist of researchers, service providers, and transgendered persons, many of whom are nationally known. Persons interested in serving on the advisory board should contact AEGIS.

AEGIS has initiated a series of public service advertisements which address the dangers of injecting liquid silicone into the human body. These advertisements will be distributed to service providers and gender organizations throughout the world.

AEGIS continues to publish CHRYSALIS QUARTERLY, a magazine which takes a novel look at issues of gender; the Transition Series booklets, which help transgendered persons to make important life decisions; and the AEGIS Bibliography of Gender Dysphoria, a comprehensive listing of books, book chapters, journal articles, and other sources of information. AEGIS is a sponsoring organization for Southern Comfort, the first-ever major gender event in the Southeast.

AEGIS serves as a clearinghouse for persons interested in gender dysphoria, providing information, educational materials, speakers, and referrals on request.

AEGIS supports the Standards of Care of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, Inc., and works to promote nondiscriminatory and nonjudgemental treatment of transgendered persons. AEGIS maintains the highest aesthetic and professional standards.

ACCESS
A Monthly Newsletter for the Transgender Community

Debra and Michelle Steadman want to advise the transgender community that they have embarked on two major ventures regarding our community. For the past few months they have been writing and publishing a book on the subject of crossdressing aimed at spouses and partners. The approach taken is from the point of view of the spouse toward the crossgendered partner, and dealing with both the positive and the negative aspects. They are working diligently on this as time permits. In addition, they have initiated publication of a monthly newsletter for the entire transgendered community and their partners. The first newsletter should be out in July or August.

This newsletter is called ACCESS. It is monthly and covers general items, product evaluations, beauty tips, spouses' and partners' letters, community forum, catalog information, cosmetics, jewelry, . . .

The premier issue will be sent to all support groups and organizations. They welcome input for publication. This newsletter will maintain quality information for everyone involved in the gender community.

For more information about ACCESS, please use the following address:

ACCESS
c/o M. Steadman
2021 Highridge Drive, Suite 9D
Huntsville AL 35802

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TRANSFORMATION

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INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION for GENDER EDUCATION CONTRIBUTIONS

POLICY:

Contributions are an important source of revenue to IFGE. These funds enable IFGE to provide the necessary human and capital resources to serve the needs of our community. IFGE does not benefit from government, public, or United Way monies. It is entirely supported by revenue generated from the sale of publications, programs, and contributions.

All contributions are tax deductible, with receipt gratefully acknowledged, and kept totally confidential if the donor so desires. The contribution may be designated by the donor to any of the four funds described below, or be used for a specified purpose (such as a scholarship, or research grant). IFGE accepts cash, checks, Visa/MasterCard, or stock or bond assignments.

Remembering IFGE in your estate planning, will, or trust is a loving gesture which will permit us to build a significant trust fund to meet our community's needs for the next decade and beyond.

Living Memorials: Living memorials are sent to I.F.G.E. in memory of departed sisters, brothers, family members, and friends. Some memorials and contributions become a part of the permanent Foundation Trust Fund. Other memorials are given to a specified fund. I.F.G.E. wishes to express its heartfelt thanks to the individuals, families, and organizations who saw fit to remember their loved ones with a contribution to I.F.G.E.'s memorial Funds. These contributions will provide a lasting memorial to the memory of these friends and members of our community.

The Winslow Street Fund: This fund has been established to provide a strong and permanent financial base. Only the income generated by this fund are used. Contributions to this fund are living contributions.

The Christine Jorgensen Memorial Fund: This fund has been established to assist in the implementation of transsexual education objectives and to address other transsexual issues.

The IFGE Programs Fund: This fund has been established to assist in the development and presentation of programs such as the international convention, conferences, workshops, seminars, and public speaking engagements.

The IFGE General Fund: This fund has been established to assist with miscellaneous funding needs. These needs include but are not limited to maintaining an office, a staff, purchasing and maintaining capital equipment, assisting IFGE committee projects such as educational resources and marketing, and improving communications with and support of our community's organizations and services.

The Christine Jorgensen Fund

I.F.G.E. acknowledges the following contributors:

The Winslow Street Fund

I.F.G.E. acknowledges the following contributors:

The Sage Group (In memory of Dorothy Finch)
Winnie Brant (In memory of Dorothy Finch)
J.R. Bauwens
Don Baker
CrossPort

Contributions In Memory of Dorothy Finch

I.F.G.E. acknowledges the following special contributors:

Sheila Kirk
Renee Chevalier
Laura Smiley
Ariadne Kane

I.F.G.E. wishes to thank those persons who have substantially contributed to its general operations. I.F.G.E. gratefully acknowledges the following members of the **"500 CLUB"** (accumulated gifts of $500.00 or more), members of the **"1000 CLUB"** (accumulated gifts of $1000.00 or more), members of the **"2500 CLUB"** (accumulated gifts of $2500.00 or more), members of the **"5000 CLUB"** (accumulated gifts of $5000.00 or more), and **"BENEFACTORS"** (accumulated gifts of $10,000.00 or more):

"500 CLUB"
Amanda Williams
CrossPort

"1000 CLUB"
Nelson Dionne

"2500 CLUB"
Sharon McGrath
Elizabeth Lehman
Wendy Parker

"5000 CLUB"
Laura Cauldwell

"BENEFACTOR"

DIRECTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS AND SERVICES

(Updated September 1991)

(Organizations and services are sorted according to category and zip code)

(For insertions, corrections, and deletions: IFGE Directory, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778)
(New organizations, services, and individuals interested in forming new groups are welcome.)

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

MASSACHUSETTS

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR GENDER EDUCATION: I.F.G.E., Box 367, Wayland MA 01778, (617) 894-8340 FAX (617) 899-5703. Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Director.

Nature: I.F.G.E. is a non-profit educational and service organization designed to serve as an effective communications medium, outreach device, and networking facility for the entire TV/TS Community and those affected by that Community.

Services: I.F.G.E. publishes the TV-TS Tapestry Journal and other publications relevant to the TV/TS theme. We sponsor an annual international convention. We serve as an international information and referral clearinghouse, speakers' bureau, and a safe, friendly "drop-in center" for emergency peer counselling and ongoing volunteer work.

IFGE CONGRESS OF REPRESENTATIVES: Congress of Representatives, P.O. Box 367, Wayland MA 01778 (617) 894-8340 Sonia Gale, Coordinator.

Nature: The Congress of Representatives is a group of individuals selected by independent non-profit organizations, services, and chapters to represent the special interests of their organizations. Also, the representatives serve as the communications conduit between their organizations, the IFGE national headquarters, the IFGE Board of Directors, the IFGE national committees, and with other organizations.

COUPLES SUPPORT GROUP: Couples Support Group, c/o TCNE, P.O. Box 2283, Woburn MA 01888, R. & R. Goldstein, Co-Directors. For information call: (617) 891-9325 on meeting night, or (508) 358-2305 Tuesday or Saturday after 7pm.

Nature: A moderated rap group to encourage continuing open communication between two partners in a committed relationship where one partner is a crossdresser.

Services: Scheduled meetings held on the 3rd Friday of each month, 8-10 p.m. at the Tiffany Club office, 6 Cushing St. Room 202, Waltham, MA. No fees.

Security: Partners do not cross-dress for meetings. Newcomers welcome. Please call ahead.

TIFFANY CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND, Inc.: TCNE, Box 2283, Woburn MA 01888. (508) 358-2305. Ms. Vivian P., President

Nature: Tiffany is a non-profit social and educational organization for crossdressers of all kinds desiring to explore and develop their total personality for the attainment of a peace of mind not otherwise possible. Tiffany provides support programs for the individual member, their family, and friends.

Services: Tiffany services and activities include publishing the Rosebuds newsletter, operating a safe-house, and organizing "get-togethers," workshops, seminars, and beauty courses. Tiffany sponsors a formal Wives and Significant Others support group, a TS support group, parties, nights on the town, referrals, a speakers' bureau, and group outings.

Security: Tiffany welcomes responsible persons who will exercise good manners and use common sense. Attendees must have met with and been cleared by a member of Tiffany's Screening Committee, have a letter of introduction from a qualified person.

TIFFANY CLUB WIVES' SUPPORT GROUP: WSG, c/o TCNE, Box 2283, Woburn MA 01888, (508) 358-2305 Tuesday or Saturday after 7pm. Toini McDonald, Director.

Nature: Affiliated with the Tiffany Club. For those in a committed relationship with members in good standing at the Tiffany Club.

Services: Monthly meetings, one-on-one support, outings, and other events.

Security: See 'Tiffany Club.'

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION for GENDER ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLES (NOGAL)

Nature: Support for all parts of the gender community. Group just forming, with thoughts of providing advocacy and social support, employment referral, crisis hotline, legal/medical referral . . .

Services: Meet on the third Saturday of each month at the Gay and Lesbian Center in Boston, 338 Newbury Street, at 4:00 pm. 617-247-2927 or 617-323-8856.

PINK FLAMINGOES: c/o the Gay and Lesbian Center, 338 Newury St., Boston MA, (617) 536-5639.

Nature: Support and referral group for crossdressers, transgenderists, and transsexuals.

Services: Meets every Saturday from 4:00 to 6:00pm at the Gay and Lesbian Center, 338 Newbury St., Boston.

Screening: None.

THE ADAM SOCIETY: The Adam Society, c/o Dan Riley, 6 Cushing St., 2nd Fl., Waltham MA 02154

Nature: A non-profit support group for female-to-male crossdressers and transsexuals, and their significant others.

Services: Monthly meetings. Publishes Adam's Word.

Security: Inquire

RHODE ISLAND

NEW HAMPSHIRE

CHESHIRE COUNSELING ASSOCIATES: See Professional, Medical, and Psychological Listings.

MAINE

TRANSSUPPORT: TransSupport, Box 17622, Portland ME 04101.

Nature: Non-profit, non-sexual social support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, their families, and friends.

Services: Monthly meetings. Inquire for time and place. Publishes Trans-Talk newsletter.

Security: Inquire.

HUMAN OUTREACH AND ACHIEVEMENT INSTITUTE (HOAC) aka Outreach Institute: HOAC, 405 Western avenue, Suite 345, South Portland ME 04106. Ariadne Kane, Director, 207-775-0858.

Nature: The Outreach Institute is a non-profit educational corporation. Outreach works primarily with Helping Professionals from the fields of Education, Guidance and Counselling, Therapy, Medicine, Law and Law Enforcement, Nursing, and Human Services.

Services: Outreach's programs include the Gender Awareness and Involvement Network (GAIN); New Visions of Gender Conferences for health care professionals; National Conferences for New Women for post-operative male-to-female transsexuals; Fantasia Fair, a live-in exploration of alternative lifestyle roles; Hopeful Seminars for couples to work together; and a Speakers' Bureau.

Publications: Quarterly Journal of Gender Studies for professionals, quarterly Our Sorority about contact groups and their programs. Information packets and an annotated book catalogue are also available.

Security: Outreach Institute's programs are sophisticated and strictly non-sexual. All participants in any Outreach program are expected to act accordingly.

VERMONT

CONNECTICUT

JO-JO OUTREACH GIRLS GROUP: P O Box 1226, Glastonbury CT 06033-1226.
Nature: Non-sexual social and friendship group that occasionally goes out to regular (non-gay) establishments. Also does support and outreach through the media. Political and educational outreach in both the print and broadcast media.

CONNECTICUT OUTREACH SOCIETY: COS, P.O. Box 163, Farmington CT 06034.

Nature: Non-profit and non-sexual but respectful of its members' sexual preferences. Its objectives are to promote and propagate the friendship of the TV/TS community through education, support, and understanding of its members and their families.

Service: Prompt response to all communications, informative monthly newsletter Connecticut View, Wives Support Group, rap sessions, parties at various locations. Wig, makeup, clothing, and demeanor assistance available. Costs shared by participants.

Security: None. House parties on an invitational basis, bar parties open. All members are required to be discreet and tolerant of each other. Common sense and courtesy prevail.

THE XX (TWENTY) CLUB: The XX Club, Box 387, Hartford CT 06141-0387.

Nature: The XX Club is the non-profit and non-sexual transsexual peer support group of the Gender Identity Clinic of New England. Friends and relatives are welcome.

Services: A newsletter, XX, is published monthly. We meet the second and fourth Saturday of each month from 2-5pm at Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church Street, Hartford CT (off Main Street, opposite G. Fox & Company). Meetings are usually open, some times there is a prearranged program. There are occasional social events. Membership of $20.00/year includes a subscription to the newsletter.

Security: Persons wishing to attend are welcome as long as they have a personal interest in transsexuality, understand the nature of the group, and will respect the anonymity of those attending.

HARRIET LANE'S TV SET: P.O. Box 4002, Wallingford CT 06492, (203) 237-1968 (ask for Harriet Lane or Joanie Lassin).

Nature: Home parties for open-minded TV's, TG's, TS's, and their spouse or friends.

Services: Meetings 2nd & 4th Saturday each month. Membership $100.00 per year. Key members $250.00 (store clothes & have key between 9 a.m. - 11 pm). Information on TV activities. Newsletter.

Security: All members must dress at the clubhouse. Dressing room provided. Discretion required. Contact Harriet or Joanie for phone interview & personal meeting.

NEW JERSEY

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY CHAPTER: c/o Ms. Kimberly S. Grant, 7 Mill Road, Irvington NJ 07111.

Nature: Transsexual support group.

Services: Meetings.

Security: Inquire

F_2M: c/o S.G., P O Box 615, Tenafly NJ 07670.

Nature: A non-profit social and support organization created by and for female-to-male transsexuals and crossdressers. "Knowledge is the key to the door of gender-reassignment. Up-to-date information is essential."

Services: Social events in the New York area, confidential contacts, a comprehensive resource directory, and a newsletter. Compiling information necessary to the F-M transition into a central database. F_2M actively solicits correspondence: questions, concerns, and all items of F-M TS information are requested.

Security: We believe that confidentiality, and often anonymity are critical issues for TS's on our mailing list. All correspondence is considered confidential.

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY: Ms. Lynda Frank, P O Box 9192, Morristown NJ 07960; 201-663-0772.

Nature: Open membership, non-sexual.

Services: Get-togethers the last Saturday of each month at various locations in northern NJ. Ms. Frank now handles the TV-related affairs of the dissolved Pine Brook, NJ chapter as well.

Security: Interview required.

RENAISSANCE - SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY CHAPTER: Renaissance South Jersey, P O Box 189, Mays Landing NJ 08330. 609-641-3782. Kelly Harris, chapter leader.

Nature: Non-profit, non-sexual social and support organization serving the gender community.

Services: Meetings the first Saturday of each month at the Atlantic Mental Health Center, Inc., 2002 Black Horse Pike, Mckee, NJ. Doors open at 7:00pm.

Security: Inquire.

SIGMA NU RHO CHAPTER TRI-ESS: SNR, P O Box 9255, Trenton NJ 08650.

Nature: Tri-Ess is a non-profit organization exclusively for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: Meets the second Saturday of each month.

Security: Inquire.

MONMOUTH OCEAN TRANS GENDER: MOTG, P O Box 1326, Brick NJ 08723.

Nature: Affiliated with Renaissance in Pennsylvania. See their description.

NEW YORK

NEW YORK CITY GENDER ALLIANCE: NYCGA, c/o Fem Fashions, 9 W 31st St, #7R, New York NY 10001, 212-582-6823 (Call after 3:00pm, eastern time). Muriel Olive, Director.

Nature: Non-profit social organization for members and friends of the TV/TS community.

GENDER IDENTITY PROGRAM: c/o Barbara Warren, Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, 208 West 13th Street, New York NY 10014, 212-969-0888 (answering service).

Nature: Support and counseling service for gender dysphoric individuals.

Services: Peer-to-peer counseling and facilitated open discussion for all transsexuals at the Lesbiasn and Gay Center.

GIRL'S NIGHT OUT: G.N.O., 561 Hudson Street, Box 45, New York NY 10014. Hotline: 201-794-1665 ext 332.

Nature: An open social support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their significant others.

Services: Meetings are held. Publishes monthly newsletter, Out and About.

Security: Inquire.

SURVIVORS OF TRANSSEXUALITY ANONYMOUS (STA): c/o Barbara Warren, Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, 208 West 13th St., New York NY 10014, answering service 212-969-0888.

Nature: A twelve-step recovery program for all gender-conflicted individuals modeled after Alcoholics Anonymous.

Services: Meets 6:30-8:00 pm on Tuesdays, and 8:30-10:00 pm on Sundays at the above address. We could arrange room and board for out of town visitors, but we do not have a place for people to stay long-term.

Security: We use AA's tradition of anonymity.

CROSS DRESSERS INTERNATIONAL: CDI, P O Box 29, New York NY 10021, 212-243-0837.

Nature: Non-profit, non-sexual social support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their significant others.

Services: Sponsors meetings, parties, dinners, shows, and serves the needs of all.

Security: Call or write for more information.

THE GATHERING: P O Box 29, New York NY 10021-0030.

Nature: A non-profit, non-sexual support group serving primary and secondary transsexuals and other gender dysphoric persons. Services: Meetings the 1st Saturday of every month (meeting sites vary; inquire first). Presents programs, information, guest speakers, referrals, peer counseling, a newsletter. Dues are $35.00 per year. A subscription to the newsletter PASSAGES is $25.00 for 12 issues. Members receive the newsletter without charge.

Security: Participation is open to all potential M-F and F-M pre-and post-operative transsexuals, friends, and relatives. Inquiry required.

EULENSPIEGEL SOCIETY: The Eulenspiegel Society, Box 2783 Grand Rapids Station, New York NY 10163, 212-477-6588.

Nature: For those with S/M and B/D fantasies. The oldest organization of its type.

Service: Frequent events specifically oriented toward the TV. Inquire for times and locations.

CHI DELTA MU OF TRI-ESS: Chi Delta Mu, P.O. Box 477, Co-op Station, Bronx NY 10475. Hot Line (201) 663-0772.

Nature: See Society for the Second Self.

Services: Get-togethers the 2nd Saturday of each month in either northern New Jersey or southern Westchester County, NY. Very interested in attracting wives and girl friends. We have over 75 paid members, and have been in existence over five years.

Security: Private interview with Chapter President or qualified member.

GIRLS NIGHT OUT: Girls Night Out, P.O. Box 369, Brooklyn NY 11235.

Nature: An open social and support group for TV's, TS's, and friends.

Services: Monthly meetings in secure Manhattan location. Educational programs, advice and counseling. Partake in NYC nightlife. Dressing facilities available. Meetings last Saturday of month. Memberships $25.00; Meeting contribution: $3.00 for members, $6.00 for non-members. Send S.A.S.E. for full information package.

Security: Open group, no screening.

LONG ISLAND FEMME EXPRESSION (LIFE): LIFE, c/o Vickie Stone, P O Box 31, Hempstead NY 11551.

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: Publishes the newsletter, Lifelines. See Society for the Second Self, Tulare, CA.

TRANSGENDERISTS' INDEPENDENCE CLUB (TGIC): TGIC, Box 13604, Albany NY 12212-3604, 518-436-4513 (Thursdays 7-9 p.m., or leave a message and instructions for calling back).

Nature: Non-sexual group offering support to crossdressers, transsexuals, mates, and families.

Services: Two monthly parties, weekly support group raps, monthly mates'/wives' support group, bi-monthly newsletter, shopping guide, key club, and storage.

Security: We have a screening process to ensure the comfort and safety of all. You may feel sure of anonymity and our discretion.

TRANSGENDER NETWORK: Transgender Network, P.O. Box 177, Tillson NY 12486-0177.

Nature: A non-profit, non-sexual, social and educational support group for TV's, TS's, and SO's. Clergy and professionals are also welcome.

Services: Meetings 1st & 3rd Fridays of each month, social outings, beauty consultants, places to shop, mail order boutiques, guest speakers and referral service.

Security: All inquiries are made through our P.O. Box. Names, addresses and phone numbers of each member are held in strict confidence. Anonymity and discretion are required to ensure privacy to all.

EON (Expressing Our Nature): EON, 523 W Onondaga St., Syracuse NY 13804-3226.

Nature: EON is a non-profit, non-sexual social and educational peer support group. It is comprised mainly of committed couples, one of which is a cross-dresser.

Services: We have social get-togethers in a pleasant atmosphere at the home of one of our members. We also have non-dress discussion groups for our couples and friends. We have several shops available which cater to our members. We also have a very active wives support group.

Security: EON requires a screening by a member of their screening committee prior to invitation as a guest. If you would like to become a guest, please write.

CROSSROADS OF BUFFALO: Vern, 2316 Delaware Ave. Suite-102, Buffalo NY 14216.

Nature: Non-profit support group for transsexuals and crossdressers and their partners or family.

Services: TS group meets on the fourth

Sunday of the month. CD group meets on various Saturday evenings. Dues: $25.00. Monthly newsletter, Crosscurrents, subscription $15.00 per year. Single copy: $1.50.

Security: New members usually must talk to a group member.

NU PHI CHI CHAPTER - TRI-ESS: Nu Phi Chi, P.O. Box 473 Bridge Sta., Niagara Falls NY 14305-9998.

Nature: Social support organization for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See Society for the Second Self, Tulare, CA

ROCHESTER CD-NETWORK: CD-Network, P.O. Box 92055, Rochester NY 14692, 716-251-2132 (24-hr. hotline and recorder).

Nature: Non-profit, non-sexual support group for CD's, TS's, and their spouses. Over 50 members, mostly from upstate NY.

Services: Monthly meetings and social events in a secure, supportive, and non-judgmental atmosphere. Monthly newsletter CD News. Cooperative activities with other crossdresser groups in NY state.

Security: Newsletter sent to all members who have completed membership questionnaire. Invitation to meetings extended after screening interview, or with references from a sister organization.

PENNSYLVANIA

PERSAD CENTER, INC.: See 'Helping Professional' listings.

TRANSPITT: TransPitt, P O Box 3214, Pittsburgh PA 15230. 412-781-0257.

Nature: TransPitt is a non-profit, non-sexual social organization with an open membership policy.

Services: Meetings the third Saturday of each odd-numbered month. Referrals.

Security: Meeting with club officer.

RENAISSANCE LOWER SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY CHAPTER: Renaissance - LSV, Box 2122, Harrisburg PA 17105-2122. 717-780-1LSV or 717-780-1578. Brenda Davidson, chapter leader.

Nature: Non-profit support group for the gender community at large.

Services: Meets the first Saturday evening of each month. Call for latest information on meeting site.

Security: Inquire.

CROSSDRESSERS INTERNATIONAL: CDI, P O Box 61, Easton PA 212-243-0837. S. Kristine Johnson, Director.

Nature: Non-profit, non-sexual social support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their significant others.

Services: Sponsors meetings, parties, dinners, shows, and serves the needs of the gender community.

Security: Write for further information.

RENAISSANCE - GREATER PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER: Renaissance PHL, P O Box AD, Bensalem PA 19020. 215-946-8887. Dina Amberle, Chapter Leader.

Nature: Non-profit support group for the gender community at large.

Services: Meets the third Saturday of each month in King of Prussia, PA. Summer meetings start at 9:00 pm. For information, call above number.

PHILADELPHIA TRANSSEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP: Address invalid 5/14/91.

Nature: To educate the community on TS issues and to give support needed in this sometimes confusing period. Dues: $25.00/yr.

Services: Monthly meeting, social events, professional referrals.

Security: No drugs or excess baggage.

RENAISSANCE - NATIONAL BOARD: The Renaissance Education Association, Inc., Box 552, King of Prussia PA 19406. Alison Laing, Director of Outreach, IFGE Congress of Representatives. (215) 630-1437.

Nature: Non-profit educational organization with chapters and affiliates providing support, outreach, and service to all members of the transgendered community.

Services: Publishes and distributes Renaissance Newsletter to all members. Provides training for media interaction and outreach to the professional community and to educational institutions. Assists in the organization and support of groups dedicated to the transgendered community, and undertakes special projects to further that cause.

DELAWARE

WASHINGTON, DC

WASHINGTON-BALTIMORE ALLIANCE: c/o R. Lewis, P O Box 50724, Washington DC 20091-0724. WBA Hotline 301-277-5475.

Nature: Non-profit, non-sexual education and support organization for members of the TV/TS community.

Services: Discussions, raps, special events, and referrals. Meets in Maryland on the third Saturday of each month from September through June, except December.

Security: Write or call.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE CHAPTER TRI-ESS: c/o Tri-Ess, Box 194, Tulare CA 93275.

Nature: Heterosexual crossdressers' support group for TVs and their families.

Services: See Society for the Second Self, Tulare, CA.

Security: Inquire.

JANUS/DC: c/o H. Martin Malin, Ph D, 4835 Del Ray Avenue, Bethesda MD 20814.

Nature: Transsexual support. Not to be confused with the Society of Janus, a California S/M group with chapters having similar names.

GENDER IDENTITY OUTREACH CENTER USA: Adress invalid June 19, 1991. **Nature**: A non-profit nationwide support system for all transgender persons.

Services: A 24-hr hotline with TDD access for the hearing impaired and deaf. Monthly right-to-know workshops on issues pertinent to crossdressers. A monthly publication The TV's Guide and a "three for free" condom distribution center for the crossdressing community with an AIDS outreach program specifically designed for crossdressers.

Security: Open to all persons interested in transgender issues and the TV/TS liberation movement. All information is kept strictly confidential and available only to the center's director.

THE BRIDGE CLUB: c/o Michelle Gerald, P O Box 11737, Baltimore MD 21206-0337.

MY CHOICE: c/o Shana Roberts, 7 S. Broadway, Baltimore MD 21231. 301-732-4546.

Nature: We are a non-profit support group for TV's and TS's.

Services: Meetings the second Saturday of the month. Call or write for location of meetings. Support and advice are given. We have a registered social worker qualified in TG issues at every meeting. We usually go out socializing after meetings. Shopping, make-up and coming-out help available.

Security: Interview by phone or in person required before attendance of meetings. Phone and address list available only to Shana Roberts and Kathy Lyn, who heads up our TS department.

VIRGINIA

BLACK ROSE: Black Rose, P O Box 11161, Arlington VA 22210, 301-369-7667.

Nature: Support group for dominant-submissive relationships. Singles and crossdressers welcome.

Services: Meets Tuesday nights in Washington, DC. There is usually a guest or a topic for the evening, followed by socializing afterwards.

Security: Call or write.

DELTA CHI EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (DCEA): DCEA, P.O. Box 16036, Arlington VA 22215.

Nature: Social/support group for TV's, TS's, and their significant others.

Services: Social activities, meetings once a month. Publishes The Pinnacle newsletter.

Security: Inquiry needed.

WEST VIRGINIA

TRANS-WV: TRANS-WV, P.O. Box 2322, Huntington WV 25724-2322.

Nature: A non-sexual social/support group for crossdressers, TS's, their spouses, and significant others.

Services: Monthly meetings the third Friday of the month. Costs of accommodations are divided among members in attendance. At our meetings we dress-up, talk, and plan. We plan to establish some form of outreach.

Security: Prospective members must meet with an officer before being told the meeting place. No member shall reveal the true name, address, phone number, or profession of any other member to anyone, except with the other member's express permission.

NORTH CAROLINA

TRIAD GENDER ASSOCIATION: c/o Stephanie Dula, P O Box 78082, Greensboro NC 27427-8082.

Nature: Non-profit, non-sexual social support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their significant others.

Services: Meetings every other month, with occasional social events as well.

Security: No personal information will be released without a person's knowledge and consent. Inquire.

GDANC SUPPORT GROUP: GDANC, P O Box 721, Albemarle NC 28002, (704) 982-1028.

Nature: To help TV's, TS's, and others through the hard times by being available when you need someone to talk to.

Services: Meetings on the third Saturday of every month at a private apartment.

Security: Call or write to be interviewed.

KAPPA BETA - TRI-ESS: Kappa Beta, P.O. Box 12101, Charlotte NC 28220.

Nature: Social support group for male, heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others. Serving the Carolinas and Southern Virginia.

Services: Monthly meetings August to May, usually in Charlotte. Monthly newsletter, The Pink Slip, $20.00 per year.

Security: Interview with Board member. Must be eligible to join (i.e., be a current member of Tri-Ess).

PHOENIX TRANSGENDER SUPPORT: Phoenix, P.O. Box 18332, Asheville NC 28814.

Nature: Non-profit TV/TS support group. Significant others and friends welcome.

Services: Irregularly scheduled meetings. Inquire for time and location. One-on-one meetings if requested.

Security: Good manners, common sense protect the security and peace of mind of all.

SOUTH CAROLINA

GEORGIA

MONTGOMERY MEDICAL & PSYCHOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, INC. (The Augusta Chapter): Jerry, Lynn, or Tommie, P O Box 33311, Decatur GA 30033. (404) 603-9426. Contact April.

Nature: TS support group and professional services. Information distribution center for the state of Georgia.

Services: Monthly meetings, free professional referrals, speakers, training seminars, hot line, and an annual TS convention. Publications: MM & PI Monthly newsletter, Insight a quarterly magazine for and about TS's, among others.

Screening: Required of clients before becoming members. Local professionals working with our members are also screened.

ATLANTA EDUACATIONAL GENDER INFORMATION SERVICE (AEGIS): AEGIS, P O Box 33724, Decatur GA 30033-0724. 404-939-0244(help line), 404-939-2128.

Services: Professional referrals and case management; support group, led by Dallas Denny, MA (Licensed Psychological Examiner) and Carol Miller, M Ed (Licensed Professional Counselor); speakers' bureau; publications: Chrysalis Quarterly, transition booklets, bibliography of gender dysphoria, among others. Open to all transgendered persons. Membership of

$30.00 includes subscription to Chrysalis Quarterly.

Security: A screening interview is required prior to attending the support group.

THE TRANSSEXUAL VOICE: See Commercial and Professional Publications and Services.

SIGMA EPSILON, TRI-ESS: Sigma Epsilon, P O Box 250481, Atlanta GA 30325.

Nature: Social support group for male heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others. Serving Georgia, Alabama, N. Florida, & Tennessee.

Security: See Society for the Second Self, Tulare, CA.

FLORIDA

SIGMA EPSILON - TRI ESS: Sigma Epsilon, P O Box 7241, Tallahassee FL 32314-7241.

Nature: Social support group for male heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others. Serving Georgia, Alabama, N. Florida, & Tennessee.

Services: Monthly meetings, except June and August, at established Atlanta & Chattanooga locations. Monthly newsletter $15.00 /yr.

Security: See Society for the Second Self, Tulare, CA.

PHI EPSILON MU/ CENTRAL FLORIDA SISTERS: P O Box 3261, Winter Park FL 32790-3261.

Nature: Non-profit, non-sexual social support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their significant others.

Services: Meetings 1st Saturday of each month. Monthly newsletter to members and other groups.

Security: Interview required, emphasizing good manners, common sense, and the security of all.

FANTASIA: Fantasia, c/o GLCS, P.O. Box 533446, Orlando FL 32853-3446. Contact: Sabrina Marcus.

Nature: Social support group for all TV's & TS's.

Services: Group meets every Friday at 7:00 p.m. to discuss common problems, share experiences, and network information. Objectives include promoting the TV/TS Community through education & understanding.

Security: Interview required.

SERENITY: Serenity, P O Box 307, Hollywood FL 33022. Hotline: 305-921-8738.

Nature: Social/support group for TV's, TS's, and their significant others.

Services: Meetings 2nd Friday of each month at the Church of the Holy Spirit (MCC), 330 SW 27th St., Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Newsletter.

Security: Inquire.

ANIMAS: P O Box 420309, Miami FL 33242.

Nature: Social support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their significant others.

Services: Meets the first Saturday of every month at 8:30 pm in a safe, anonymous atmosphere to exchange problems, triumphs, fashion ideas, and beauty tips. A periodic newsletter is published. Outside consultants in fashion and image are available.

MOVING ON, REACHING & EXPERIENCING (M.O.R.E.): M.O.R.E., P.O. Box 100665, Ft. Lauderdale FL 33310-0665. Contact: Josephine Williamson 305-966-2138.

Nature: An action-based support group for the experienced male crossdresser. MORE will provide the support, friendship and trust necessary to allow the individual to explore and find their own answers of where in the gender spectrum they want to be.

Services: Meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 6:00 p.m. The meeting consists of a one hour topic discussion, a brief business meeting, and a group public activity.

Security: Mailing list is confidential. Telephone contact list is open to all members. Attendance by non-member requires interview.

BLOSSOM C. PASTER: See Commercial and Professional Publications and Services.

STARBURST: Starburst, c/o J. L. Hores, 1801-69 Avenue S, St. Petersburg FL 33712, 813-866-0438, Joe.

Nature: Non-profit support group for transsexuals and transvestites.

Services: Meets the first and third Friday of each month in a private home.

Security: Excellent. Meetings in a private home. Screening before attending first meeting. Call or write to make an appointment.

THE SOUTHERN BELLES/TAU SIGMA BETA CHAPTER OF TRI ESS: c/o Michelle Kaufman, Box 7311, St. Petersburg FL 33734-7311.

Nature: Non-profit social/support group for male heterosexual crossdressers, their wives and girlfriends.

Services: Meetings 3rd Saturday of month in private homes. Monthly newsletter, with items of interest to the crossdressing community.

ALABAMA

SIGMA EPSILON, TRI-ESS: Sigma Epsilon, P O Box 250481, Atlanta GA 30325.

Nature: Social support group for male heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others. Serving Georgia, Alabama, N. Florida, & Tennessee.

Security: See Society for the Second Self, Tulare, CA.

SERGA: c/o C. M. Steadman, 2021 High Ridge Dr., Suite 9-D, Huntsville AL 35802.

MISSISSIPPI

BETA CHI CHAPTER OF TRI-ESS IN MISSISSIPPI: Beta Chi, P.O. Box 31253, Jackson MS 39206-1253. Hotline: (601) 982-7678 (24 hrs). Lee Frances, Secretary

Nature: Social support group for crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See Society for the Second Self, Tulare, CA. Publishes Premiere newsletter.

Security: Inquire.

TENNESSEE

SIGMA EPSILON, TRI-ESS: Sigma Epsilon, P O Box 250481, Atlanta GA 30325.

Nature: Social support group for male heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others. Serving Georgia, Alabama, N. Florida, & Tennessee.

Security: See Society for the Second Self, Tulare, CA.

KENTUCKY

OHIO

CRYSTAL CLUB: Crystal Club, P.O. Box 287, Reynoldsburg OH 43068-0287. 614-777-0648.

Nature: An open support group for TV, TS, and others who cross-dress with a full feminine identity. We provide a non-threatening environment for crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: Meetings the 4th Saturday of each month at 7:00 p.m. with a meeting fee of $15.00. Peer support, newsletter. Buyers' guide in preparation. We cooperate with neighboring organizations such as Alpha Omega, Paradise, and Cross-Port. Publishes The Crystal Chronical.

Security: Inquire. Include a brief biography of yourself, and tell them where you heard about us.

ALPHA OMEGA CHAPTER, TRI-ESS: Alpha Omega, Box 954, Elyria OH 44036.

Nature: A social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their families.

Services: Bi-monthly meetings. Publish the Alpha Omega Outreach newsletter.

Security: Membership and attendance at a meeting requires the approval of a qualified Alpha Omega officer.

PARADISE CLUB: Paradise, P.O. Box 29564, Parma OH 44129.

Nature: Paradise is a non-profit, non-sexual social organization with an emphasis on friendship and support, especially for wives. Paradise has approximately 90 members, with an average of 50+ in attendance at each meeting.

Services: Paradise publishes a newsletter, Paradise Tales, and sponsors a meeting every other month with a catered dinner and usually a special event such as a speaker, makeup advice, a show, or other event of interest.

Security: Paradise welcomes all mature and responsible people. We place emphasis on manners, common sense, and the security of all. Membership is offered only after a personal interview with an officer. Non-members may attend meetings with the concurrence of an officer. Open membership, but all members must be crossdressers, and must dress at meetings.

CROSS-PORT: Box 12701, Cincinnati OH 45212-0701, 513-299-1353, Shelbi.

Nature: Cross-Port is a non-profit, non-sexual organization for the male-to-female and the female-to-male crossdresser and transsexual, and supportive friends regardless of sexual preference, practices, or orientation.

Services: Cross-Port distributes a monthly newsletter to all members.

Security: All guests and members are expected to conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen. Common sense is the rule. The mailing and membership lists are confidential. No member shall reveal the true name, address, telephone number, or profession of any other member to anyone, except with the other member's express permission.

INDIANA

IXE: IXE, Box 20710, Indianapolis IN 46220.

Nature: A non-profit TV/TS social/support group.

Services: IXE distributes a monthly newsletter to all members. IXE has a BBS, shared on line with the Adult BBS. Users must be registered with the Adult BBS before access will be given. Upon access type <J> then <I>. Dial 317-784-6975

Security: Mailing and membership lists are confidential. No names, addresses, or phone numbers will be given out, even with the member's permission. Manners and common sense are expected of all members and their guests at all meetings. IXE is a supportive non-judgemental group for all persons honestly dealing with gender conflict. We welcome all to our meetings.

MICHIGAN

CROSSROADS CHAPTER: Crossroads, P O Box 1245, Royal Oak MI 48068-1245. Joanne Janiszewski, President. Phone messages: 313-446-0782.

Nature: Crossroads is a non-profit, non-sexual social organization emphasizing friendship, support, and the peace of mind of all. Crossroads has a formal membership of approximately 90 and an informal membership of approximately 250.

Services: Crossroads publishes a newsletter, Crossroads Chatter, and sponsors both formal and casual social activities. We provide referrals to other organizations nationwide, and to helping professionals in the Great Lakes area. We also investigate agencies, businesses, and organizations, and do considerable outreach work and publicity for the paraculture.

Security: Crossroads welcomes all mature and responsible people, and emphasizes good manners, common sense, and the security of all.

CROSSROADS OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN: See Crossroads Chapter, above.

NATIONAL GENDER DYSPHORIA ORGANIZATION AND SUPPORT GROUP: N.G.D.O., P.O. Box 02732, Detroit MI 48202. (313) 842-5258. Justina Williams, President.

Nature: N.G.D.O. is a non-profit support/educational organization for the gender dysphoric (transsexual) community, and crossdressers.

Services: We publish The N.G.D.O. Key to Freedom. We offer referrals to compassionate, helping professionals and support groups which are separated as to sexual orientation. We also offer a discrimination committee.

Security: The N.G.D.O. protects the privacy of its members. You can trust us. Meetings are held at a safe location.

THETA OMEGA GAMMA - TRI-ESS (Detroit area): Theta Omega Gamma, c/o Tri-Ess, P.O. Box 194, Tulare CA 93275 (temporary address).

Nature: Social support for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant

others.

Services: See Society for the Second Self, Tulare, CA.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CROSSDRESSERS: NAC, P.O. Box 497, Flint MI 48501. Grace Bacon, Dir.

Nature: An organization dedicated to education and outreach.

Services: Publishes and distributes the informational pamphlet An Overview of Crossdressing, Transvestism, and Transsexualism.

I.M.E. OF WESTERN MICHIGAN: I.M.E. of Western Michigan, P O Box 1153, Grand Rapids MI 49501.

Nature: Social, support, and educational group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their significant others, regardless of sexual orientation.

Services: Social outlet of the Cross Dresser. Mail forwarding. We have the services of a MSW social worker free of charge to members. Lectures and referrals. Monthly meetings and socials.

Security: All member files are strictly confidential. Prospective members must sign a pledge of confidentiality.

IOWA

CENTRAL IOWA GENDER INSTITUTE: See Commercial and Professional Publications and Services.

IOTA ALPHA CHAPTER, TRI ESS: Iowa Artistry, Box 75, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406.

Nature: Heterosexual crossdressers' support group for TV's and their families.

Services: See Society for the Second Self, Tulare, CA.

Services: Inquire.

WISCONSIN

MILWAUKEE TRANSGENDER PROGRAM: See Commercial and Professional Publications and Services.

INSTITUTE FOR PSYCHOSEXUAL HEALTH: See Commercial and Professional Publications and Services.

MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA FREEDOM OF GENDER EXPRESSION: MFGE, Box 17945, St. Paul MN 55117.

Nature: An open service and peer support group for transgender persons, their significant others, and interested persons.

Services: Newsletter, peer support, services' listings for members.

Security: Interview required, confidential membership listings used for newsletter and related organizational mailings only.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA GENDER DYSPHORIA PROGRAM: See Commercial and Professional Publications and Services.

CITY OF LAKES CROSSGENDER COMMUNITY (CLCC): CLCC, P O Box 16265, Minneapolis MN 55416. (612) 933-5288.

Nature: Monthly meetings. The group's purpose is to provide a comfortable social setting for cross-dressers to meet like-minded folks. We are a non-sexual group when together; however, personal orientation is not considered when newcomers apply to join us.

Security: A personal interview before coming to the first party.

NORTH DAKOTA
SOUTH DAKOTA
MONTANA

ILLINOIS

CHI CHAPTER - TRI-ESS: Chi Chapter, P O Box 40, Wooddale IL 60191-0040. Hot Line: 708-364-9514

Nature: Chicago Chapter of the Society for the Second Self, a non-profit organization for heterosexual crossdressers.

Services: Social activities, a support group for wives and girlfriends, a help line, newsletter, library, speakers' bureau, and co-sponsor of "Be All You Want To Be" weekend. Meetings the 3rd Saturday of each month, annual family picnic, Awards Banquet, Christmas Party.

Security: Inquire.

THE SUNDAY SOCIETY: The Sunday Society, P.O. Box 47056, Chicago IL 60647. (312) 252-7024. Sheila L. Sampognaro or Louise L. Raeder

Nature: Non-profit, transsexual outreach and support organization.

Services: Meetings the 3rd Sunday of each month 6-8 p.m. Monthly newsletter Trans-World Bulletin (subs. $20.00 per year). Computer bulletin board "The Sunday Society US TOO BBS" 7 nights a week from 10:00pm to 12:00am or by request. 2400, 1200, or 300 baud, 8-N-1 color, mono, or no graphics.

Security: Telephone interview required to attend meetings.

CHICAGO GENDER SOCIETY: CGS, P O Box 578005, Chicago IL 60657. (312) 434-5445.

Nature: Non-profit social and educational support group for TV's, TS's, their significant others, and supportive friends.

Services: Professional referrals, business and social events several times a month, annual Miss CGS Pageant, picnics, mail forwarding, monthly newsletter.

Security: Inquire.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS GENDER ASSOCIATION (CIGA): CIGA, P.O. Box 126, Washington IL 61571. Contact: JoAnn (309) 444-9918.

Nature: CIGA is a non-profit, non-sexual association emphasizing support for the male-to-female and female-to-male TV and TS and their significant others. Significant Others are encouraged to participate in our outreach program as well as monthly social events.

Services: Information on specific areas of gender dysphoria is available to members through our library system. Speakers may be provided to the general public on some subjects. Monthly meetings are on the 2nd Sunday - no charge. $20 annual dues includes the monthly newsletter.

Security: All members have pledged confidentiality. Interview required.

MISSOURI

ST LOUIS GENDER FOUNDATION: St L G F, P O Box 9433, St. Louis MO 63117. Voice mailbox: 314-567-8615. Please leave contact information.

Nature: Formerly the St. Louis Gateway Femmes. A social/support group for male to female CD's and TS's which has recently broadened its membership to welcome female to male CD's and TS's, as well as friends, relatives, and professionals of the cross gender community. St. Louis Gender Foundation meets monthly in a private, social atmosphere at a leading hotel to provide support, shared professional knowledge, and confidence building. Activities include grooming and make-up classes, guest speakers, electolysis information, fashion and talent shows, and business meetings.

Services: A bi-monthly newsletter, the Gateway Femmes Gazette, club business cards, and a membership directory

KANSAS

CD RESEARCH CENTER: CD Research Center, 418 Linn Street, Leavenworth KS 66048-3437, Becky Gail Croslove.

Nature: Compiling all information from clubs and organizations for complete census to be made available to the helping professionals.

Services: Input from crossdresser clubs, organizations, individual groups gets feed-back from us. Non-profit center relies on donations and grants for support.

Security: Individual crossdressers are identified by coded listings not available to outsiders. Only the total data will be released.

CROSSDRESSERS AND FRIENDS: c/o Randi Campbell, Box 4092, Overland Park KS 66204.

Nature: Support for crossdressers and friends.

Services: Inquire.

Security: Inquire.

GENDER DYSPHORIA SUPPORT: Gender Dysphoria Support, P.O. Box 15561, Shawnee Mission KS 66215. 913-371-0658. Anne Ogborn, Facilitator.

Nature: Social/support group for people who are in transition, or have changed gender.

Services: Provides peer group support for people in and post transition, and their significant others. Dedicated to providing services to F-M's and M-F's equally. Open to people of all sexual orientations. Meet Friday evenings.

Security: Contact Anne Ogborn.

WICHITA TRANSGENDER ALLIANCE: Wichita Transgender Alliance, P. O. Box 315, Kechi KS 67067.

Nature: Non-sexual peer support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, their spouses, and significant others.

Services: Monthly meetings (currently the 3rd Friday of the month) at a local church; a small donation is requested but not required. We provide mutual support, social get-togethers, and referrals to sympathetic helping professionals, electrologists, retailers, etc.

Security: A chat with an officer of the Alliance to ensure that you'd benefit from membership. Privacy is assured.

NEBRASKA

RIVER CITY GENDER ALLIANCE: RCGA, P O Box 680, Council Bluffs IA 51502-0680.

Nature: Non-profit educational, support, and social group for TV's, TS's, and significant others.

Services: We currently have about 80 members, meets every other month on the even numbered months in Omaha, and have a newsletter The Transformer. We network with other groups and sisters. We work with local helping professionals, perform outreach, and maintain files of educational and resource material including listings of local services.

Security: Inquire.

RHO CHI RHO CHAPTER - TRI ESS: Chapter discontinued. Contact: River City Gender Alliance, P O Box 680, Council Bluffs IA 51502-0680.

ARKANSAS

LOUISIANA

TRI DELTA CHI, TRI-ESS: Tri Delta Chi, Box 870213, New Orleans LA 70187-1300

Nature: New Orleans chapter of the Society for the Second Self serving members in southeast Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and northwest Florida. We are in the growing stage and are publishing newsletters and holding meetings on a sporadic basis. This is an organization for heterosexual crossdressers and their wives/S.O.'s, and is primarily a "social" support group.

Services: See Society for the Second Self, Tulare, CA.

Security: Mailing list for newsletter is open, for a fee of $5.00 yearly. Attendance at meetings and functions requires screening by Board.

UNITED TRANSSEXUAL AND TV SUPPORT GROUP: Barbara, 54 Pine Road Dr., Lacombe LA 70445.

OKLAHOMA

CROSS DRESSERS INTERNATIONAL (C.D.I.): C.D.I., c/o Ms Gwen Pete, P.O. Box 50192, Tulsa OK 74104. (918) 582-6643/835-5334.

Nature: Social organization and support group welcomes TV's, TS's, and interested parties. No one excluded for sex or sexual preference.

Services: Get-togethers every other Saturday and someone is generally available for telephone contact 7 days a week. We listen, talk, and offer support for all phases of transgenderism.

Security: Confidentiality is assured and expected.

TEXAS

DELTA OMEGA CHAPTER - TRI-ESS: Delta Omega, P.O. Box 1021, Arlington TX 76004-1021. Hotline: Metro 817-261-3253 ("live" Wednesday 7-11 pm, otherwise answering machine).

Nature: Social, for heterosexual TV's and their significant others. Serving the

transgender community of the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Services: Social activities; publish The Texas Rose newsletter.

Security: Membership and attendance requires an interview with a chapter officer.

TRI-PLEX GENDER ASSOCIATION: TPGA, c/o Karalyn McGrath, P O Box 381, Riesel TX 76682. 817-867-1077 (best to call on Sunday).

Nature: Transgender support group.

Services: Meetings the fourth Saturday of each month. Times and location will be in Boulton & Park's Gender EUPHORIA. TPGA members will receive Gender EUPHORIA.

Security: Write for more information.

HEART OF TEXAS GENDER ALLIANCE (NORTHWEST BRANCH): HTGA-NW, c/o Marlina Dawn Murphy, P O Box 30413, San Antonio TX 76903-0413. 915-944-1381 (after 7:00pm CT).

Nature: Transgender support group.

Services: Meetings the fourth Saturday of each month. Times and location will be in Boulton & Park's Gender EUPHORIA. TPGA members will receive Gender EUPHORIA.

Security: Write for more information.

GULF COAST TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY: GCTC, P.O. Box 90335, Houston TX 77090.

Nature: Formerly the Gulf Coast Transvestite Chapter, GCTC is a social organization for CD's, TS's, SO's, and others in the transgender community.

Services: Monthly social meetings, monthly newsletter. Sponsors annual "Fantasy Adventure Weekend."

Security: Membership and attendance requires an interview with an officer of the organization.

TAU CHI CHAPTER - TRI-ESS: Tau Chi, Box 1105, Alief TX 77411-1105.

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See Society for the Second Self, Tulare, CA.

Security: Membership and attendance requires an interview with the chapter president.

GENDER DYSPHORIA PROGRAM FOR TRANSSEXUALS: See Commercial and Professional Publications and Services.

WOMEN ASSOCIATED WITH CROSSDRESSERS COMMUNICATION NETWORK: W.A.C.S., Cynthia Phillips, P.O. Box 17, Bulverde TX 78163.

Nature: A women's support group devoted to the primary goal of exploring women's feelings, concerns, and attitudes about cross-dressing. Affiliated with Boulton & Park.

Services: We meet at 3:00 pm the 2nd Saturday of each month at the home of Cynthia Phillips. No fee.

Security: Inquire

HEART OF TEXAS GENDER ALLIANCE (HTGA): HTGA, P O Box 17, Bulverde TX 78163. Linda Phillips, President, (512) 438 7604.

Nature: A non-sexual support group for TV's, TS's, and their families and friends.

Services: Meetings at least once a month. Social activities. Outreach program.

Security: Interview required before attending.

BOULTON AND PARK SOCIETY: P O Box 700042, San Antonio TX 78280. Hotline: 512-657-2540. FAX 512-545-4888 Monday-Friday, 6:00 am to 5:00 pm CT.

Nature: Open, non-profit, non-sexual. Social and peer support plus local information for transsexual, transvestic, and transgendered folks, their families and friends.

Services: Meetings, newsletter Gender Euphoria, business directory, outreach to helping professionals, plus a national outreach program for individuals referred to us.

Services: You are expected to be mature enough to exist with others in social situations, exercising good manners and good sense in protecting the security and peace of mind of all. Before attending your first soiree you must meet with a designated member. If we aren't comfortable with you, you won't be invited to attend.

COLORADO

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC: See Commercial and Professional Publications and Services.

DELTA CHAPTER TRI-ESS (Denver): Delta Chapter, P.O. Box 621681, Littleton CO 80162.

Nature: A non-profit, non-sexual support/social group for heterosexual crossdressers and their families.

Services: Monthly meetings and activities, monthly newsletter addressed to the issues of the cross-dresser and family. Established wives' network. Annual dues $15.00.

Security: Requires an interview with chapter officer prior to meeting attendance.

GENDER IDENTITY CENTER OF COLORADO, INC. (G.I.C.): 3715 West 32nd Avenue, Denver CO 80211. 303-458-5378

Nature: A non-profit, tax-exempt, educational and affiliative organization designed to provide a public service to the community.

Services: G.I.C. provides information and education on the issues of crossdressing and gender conflict through a library of books and journal articles, rap sessions, workshops and seminars, and guest speakers from various areas of the community. These areas include medical, legal, insurance, personal grooming, male and female appearance and behaviors, and other related matters. G.I.C. also provides a Speakers' Bureau and a 24-hour hotline.

SOUTHERN COLORADO CHAPTER OF GIC: Contact through GIC, above.

Nature: A non-profit, tax-exempt, educational and affiliative organization designed to provide a public service to the community.

Services: Meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm. Call the Center for directions to the meeting place.

NORTHERN COLORADO/WYOMING CHAPTER OF GIC: Contact through Gender Identity Clinic, above.

Nature: A non-profit, tax-exempt, educational and affiliative organization designed to provide a public service to the community.

Services: Meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm. Call the Center for directions to the meeting place.

WYOMING

IDAHO

UTAH

ALPHA RHO, SALT LAKE CITY CHAPTER, TRI-ESS: Alpha Provesta, P O Box 26711, Salt Lake City UT 84126.

Nature: Heterosexual cross-dressers' support group for TV's and their families.

Services: See Society for the Second Self, Tulare, CA.

Security: Inquire.

ARIZONA

A ROSE: A Rose, P O Box 24623 Tempe AZ 85285-4623.

Nature: A non-sexual support group for TV's, TS's, their wives, friends, and relatives.

Services: Social activities, meetings, educational programs. Publishes A Rose News monthly newsletter.

Security: Inquire.

ALPHA ZETA CHAPTER TRI-ESS: Alpha Zeta, P O Box 24459, Tempe AZ 85285-4459.

Nature: A support group for heterosexual cross-dressers, and their significant others.

Services: Social activities, monthly meetings. Publishes The Cactus Flower newsletter.

Security: Before attending, an interview with a chapter officer is required.

THE BUTTERFLY: Butterfly, P O Box 17776, Tucson AZ 85731-7776.

Nature: A non-sexual social and support group for TV's, TS's, their spouses and relatives. Not a therapy group or a dating service.

Service: Social activities, educational programs. Publishes a monthly newsletter, The Butterfly. Meetings held the second Saturday of each month.

Security: Mutual discretion and respect. Mailing list is confidential.

NEW MEXICO

CD/TV/TS SUPPORT GROUP: CD/TV/TS Support Group, P.O. Box 26800, Suite 314, Albuquerque NM 87125.

Nature: An unaffiliated, open group offering support, acceptance, and understanding for cross-dressers and their families.

Services: Meetings the 3rd Tuesday of every month (dressing not required). Anyone with an interest in cross-dressing is welcome to attend.

Security: Insured via mutual discretion and respect.

FIESTA Chapter of Tri Ess: Fiesta, De Vargas Ctr, Suite G-451, Santa Fe NM 87501-1498.

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual cross-dressers and their significant others.

Services: See Society for the Second Self, Tulare, CA.

FIRST SATURDAY FOR TV/TS: Rudi Clarke, ST Route Box 886, Alamogordo NM 88311. 505-434-5144.

Nature: Support group for all TV's and TS's in the area.

Services: Meetings are the first Saturday of the month at the Whatever Club in El Paso, Texas.

Security: Person must meet with a member and establish their credentials. Call to set up an appointment.

NEVADA

JENNIFER & FRIENDS: Jennifer S. Samba, P O Box 1181, Reno NV 89504.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

AMERICAN TRANSSEXUAL EDUCATION CENTER: A.T.E.C, 1626 N. Wilcox Avenue, Suite 584, Hollywood CA 90028. 213-469-4709. Amanda Silvestri, Director.

Nature: A non-profit organization serving the transgender and transsexual community.

Services: Confidential and non-judgmental telephone crisis and personal counseling, referrals to support groups in your area, electrologists, medical and psychological help, speakers, and a newsletter.

Security: Open.

ALPHA CHAPTER TRI-ESS: P O Box 36091, Los Angeles CA 90036. 213-876-6141 (ask for Virginia). Kymberleigh Richards, President, Virginia Prince, Founder Emeritus.

Nature: Los Angeles chapter of the Society for the Second Self, incorporating the membership of the Sigma Chi/Lambda Alpha chapter.

Services: Monthly meeting to offer support to heterosexual cross-dressers and their wives/partners/families. Publishes Alpha Bits newsletter.

Security: Members expected to become members of national Tri-Ess. Mailing list accessible only by officers for official purposes.

ANDROGYNY: Rachel Irving, P O Box 480740, Los Angeles CA 90048; 213-467-8317 ask for Shirley or Sheila, 213-856-4867 ask for Rachel. Please mention that you are calling about Androgyny. Call between 9:00am and 9:00pm Pacific time.

Nature: Social and support group for those who crossdress.

Services: Meet on Tuesday nights from 8:00pm until 10:00pm in Santa Monica, CA.

CROSSDRESSER HETEROSEXUAL INTERSOCIAL CLUB (CHIC): CHIC, P O Box 562, Duarte CA 91009. Information/Speakers Bureau: 714-993-7142.

Nature: CHIC is for heterosexual transvestites or cross-dressers only, their wives, professional people (MDs, psychologists, teachers, etc.), and friends. We are a local Southern California organization. We offer support and friendship, and stress se-

curity and good manners.

Services: We sponsor meetings, parties, monthly dinners, and seminars on makeup, wigs, clothes, and other topics of interest. We publish a monthly newsletter, CHIC Clippings, and sponsor educational programs for the public. Meetings held 2nd Saturday night of each month.

Security: Meetings are closed except to members and approved guests. All guests must be screened and approved by two Board members and (if a home meeting) the hostess. Prospective members must apply with a written application, be interviewed by two members of the Membership Committee, and then approved by the Board of Directors. CHIC emphasizes strict security for all its members and guests.

SIGMA CHI CHAPTER OF TRI-ESS: Refer to Alpha Chapter above.

CD SOCIAL GROUP: PO Box 224, Montrose CA 91021.

Nature: A group free of politics with never a dull moment. Write for more information.

CROSS-TALK: See Commercial and Professional Publications and Services.

FEMININE IMAGE: c/o Alicia M. Lichy, 5405 Arrow Hwy.-Suite 110, Montclair CA 91763. (714) 931-1515.

Nature: TV/TS/TG social club offering support, problem solving and friendship regardless of your sexual preference or practices. Significant others and novices are most welcome.

Services: Meetings held on the 1st Saturday of each month in a private meeting room at ALICIA'S FASHIONS.

Security: Interview with Alicia or Barbara, "Best of Both Worlds," required, and your confidentiality is guaranteed.

NEUTRAL CORNER: Neutral Corner, Box 12581, San Diego CA 92112. TV/TS information line 236-1586.

Nature: A self-help group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their families. Its purpose is to help its members live a normal and productive life.

Services: Serving San Diego County with social and educational programs, a communication network, monthly meetings, membership consulting, wives' and families' input, a buyer's guide, and a list of helping professionals.

Security: Inquire.

PHOENIX RISING: Phoenix Rising, c/o Kristen Dixon, P O Box 632852, San Diego CA 92163-2852.

Nature: A support/social group for transsexuals in transition stages.

Services: Weekly meetings offering mutual support and friendship. Sharing resources, knowledge, and hope. No dues or fees required.

Security: Sponsorship by current member required.

THE PRINCE INSTITUTE: See Professional, Medical, and Psychological Health Services.

IOTA EPSILON ("INLAND EMPIRE"): Address invalid 5/14/91.

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See Society for the Second Self, Tulare, CA

Security: Inquire

GENDER DYSPHORIA PROGRAM OF ORANGE COUNTY, INC.: See Professional Medical, and Psychological Health Services.

J2CP INFORMATION SERVICES: See Library and Information Services.

NATIONAL AD-HOC MEDICAL COMMITTEE ON GENDER: NAMCOG, Sarah Seton, M.D., Coordinator, 1540 Burton Road, Suite 235, Redlands CA 92373.

Nature: Doctors in various specialties across the nation are currently founding an association of concerned, transgendered physicians. The interim coordinator is soliciting all male and female transgendered physicians (M.D. & D.O.) interested in becoming founding members. All specialties are welcome.

The purposes of the committe include mutual professional support, peer review and liaison with mainstream medical boards and associations, research and education, outreach, and lobbying for the benefit of all transgendered people, nationwide.

Full membership is available to transgendered physicians, residents, and medical students. Associate membership is available, and all other interested people are welcome. Write to above address for a prospectus and an application.

OMEGA CHI TRI-ESS (Orange County, CA): Omega Chi, Box 9091, Anaheim CA 92802.

Nature: Social support group for cross-dressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See Society for the Second Self, Tulare, CA.

POWDER PUFFS OF ORANGE COUNTY (PPOC): PPOC, P.O. Box 9091, Anaheim CA 92812. Hotline: (714) 779-9013 weekdays 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Nature: Open, non-sexual social club for cross-dressers and their significant others.

Services: Meetings on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

Security: Interview by club officer.

TRI-CHI: Tri-Chi, Box 194, Tulare CA 93275.

Nature: Social and support group for cross-dressers and their significant others.

Security/Services: See Society for the Second Self, Tulare CA 93275.

SOCIETY FOR THE SECOND SELF: Carol Beecroft, Box 194, Tulare CA 93275.

Nature: Tri-Ess is a non-profit organization exclusively for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: Tri-Ess provides a correspondence directory, a directory of commercial services, a magazine, Femme Mirror, and chapters throughout the US.

Security: Membership in Tri-Ess is open to heterosexual TV's only. Membership and attendance at a local chapter meeting requires an interview with the chapter president or older member to ensure that the applicant is heterosexual and will comply with the Tri-Ess code of conduct.

GENDER COMMUNITY ADVOCATES: GCA, c/o Ms. Tauria Linala, P.O. Box 6333, Santa Maria CA 93456; 805-922-1309 (9am - 5pm PST Mon - Thurs).

Nature: GCA is a non-profit educational project established to provide services by and for the Gender Community. Open to all. Also a professional medical, psychological and legal services co-op (see Professional Medical and Psychological Health Services), and utilizes its own computer bulletin board system, Searchlight of San Luis Obispo (see Computer Bulletin Boards).

Services: Local support group serving Central California. Information, referrals, support and peer counseling. Gender and sex information; referrals for medical and professional support, personal care, correspondence and peer-linking. International contacts. Peer counselling by telephone and/or appointment. Donations and contributions are welcome and tax-deductible.

Security: Confidential and non-judgmental.

SIGMA CHI CHAPTER OF TRI-ESS: See Alpha Chapter Tri-Ess, serving the Los Angeles area.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

FEMALE-TO-MALE: F_2M, 1827 Haight Street #164, San Francisco CA 94117; 415-626-5824, ask for Lou.

Nature: Support group exclusively for female-to-male crossdressers, TS's, and their significant others.

Services: Inquire.

Security: Inquire.

EDUCATIONAL TV CHANNEL (ETVC): ETVC, P.O. Box 426486, San Francisco CA 94142-6486. Hotline: 510-549-2665 (if no answer call Telzey at 510-849-4112).

Nature: ETVC is a delightful group of TV's, TS's, Significant Others, and friends. It is intended as a social and educational group, to meet and to have a good time as well as educate the public. ETVC is non-sexual, and has an open membership policy with over 400 members.

Services: ETVC publishes the ETVC Newsletter, and provides a full program of educational and social activities and referrals.

Security: The mailing and membership lists are confidential. Only the officers are permitted access to these lists, except in the case of judicial process. No member shall reveal the true name, address, telephone number, or profession of another member to anyone, except with the other member's expressed permission.

SIGNIFICANT OTHERS SUPPORT: SOS, c/o ETVC, Box 426486, San Francisco CA 94142-6486.

Nature: Affiliated with ETVC. An educational and support organization for the Significant Others of crossdressers and transsexuals.

Services: Meetings and a newsletter.

Security: See ETVC.

TENDERLOIN SELF-HELP CENTER: See Professional Medical and Psychological Health Services.

GENDER IDENTITY ANONYMOUS: No mailing address available.

Nature: A non-judgmental transgender support group.

Services: Meetings every Thursday in the Science of Mind room at 3255 Balboa Street (near 34th Avenue), San Francisco.

DIABLO VALLEY GIRLS: DVG, P O Box 272885, Concord CA 94527-2885.

Nature: Informal, non-profit, non-sexual social support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, their friends, and their significant others.

Services: Meetings the third Monday of every month at 8 pm, at Just Rewards, 2520 Camino Diablo, Walnut Creek. Publishes the Devil Woman newsletter.

Security: DVG is an open group and welcomes all mature and responsible persons. Confidentiality is assured and expected.

GENDER ALTERNATIVES LEAGUE (GAL): c/o Cynthia Howard, P.O. Box 3392, Napa CA 94558-3392.

Nature: National not-for-profit political activist organization for all segments of the gender community. The association is run by participating members of the gender community to provide national representation for everyone.

Services: "Our aim is freedom of gender expression without oppression. Our primary focus is to support all members of the gender community in the area of human rights and equal rights advocacy and activism. We are working on the elimination of the Mental Illness label for members of our community, and on civil rights acts protecting all members of our minority. The organization is set up like NOW and other minority activist groups. We are setting up lobbying groups, and working with other minorities for human rights. This is an umbrella organization for all groups in our community. Its policies and activities are set by participating group leaders on the League's Advisory Board. We encourage everyone to participate. We do not discriminate." Publish newsletter, The Genderist. Hold national meetings annually. Election of officers is open to all and occurs each February. Sponsor National Gender Freedom Day yearly. Contact Lauren Hotchkiss for membership information."

Security: All personal information is kept strictly confidential.

THE PACIFIC CENTER: See Professional Medical and Psychological Health Services.

THURSDAY IRREGULARS: Thursday Irregulars, c/o Joan Sheldon, PO Box 7761, San Jose CA 95150-7761.

Nature: For nearly 7 years a group of TV's and their friends have met every Thursday for lunch. An informal discussion group and meeting of good friends. Participants come as their "male" selves.

Security: The group is very security conscious, so inquire about requirements.

RAINBOW GENDER ASSOCIATION: RGA, P O Box 700730, San Jose CA 95170

Nature: Formerly San Jose' Chapter, GGA. Non-profit, non-sexual social/support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their significant others regardless of their gender or sexual orientation.

Services: Our objective is to provide a safe and welcome place for male-to-female and female-to-male transsexuals, transvestites, and their significant others to get together with like-minded individuals. Attendance at all RGA functions is open to all regardless of gender. We also promote the complete development of RGA members as complete men and women through emo-

tional support and education. We reach out to all transsexuals and transvestite in an effort to help them accept and make peace with themselves. We publish a newsletter and sponsor social programs, peer support, outreach work, and public education. Visitors are welcome.

FOCUS: See Commercial and Professional Publications and Services.

SACRAMENTO GENDER ASSOCIATION: SGA, Blue Rose Chapter, P O Box 215456, Sacramento CA 95821-1456, 916-441-8379.

Nature: SGA ia a non-sexual membership-based organization serving the educational, social, and recreational needs of the gender-challenged community, their spouses, significant others, and professionals. Membership is open to all interested persons regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

Services: Monthly socials, support groups (TV/TS/SO), newsletter.

Security: All mailing and membership lists are kept confidential. Only certain officers have access.

SOCIETY OF JANUS - SACRAMENTO GROUP: Address invalid, 9/19/91.

Nature: JANUS provides a forum on the erotic arts of S/M, dominance/submission (D/S), and bondage and discipline (B/D) in a supported and unloaded atmosphere. This is where people can share practical information and ideas, feelings, health and safety information, etc. JANUS offers education to the general public about the S/M community and to the S/M community about itself. All activities must be safe, sane, and consensual.

Services: Monthly program meetings feature guest speakers and general rap sessions. Member involvement is a vital part of the success of this group.

Security: All membership lists and mailings are kept in strictest confidence.

NORTH STATE GENDER CENTER: N.S.G.C., 13522 Highway 36 East, Box 10, Red Bluff CA 96080.

Nature: Non-profit, non-sexual social support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their significant others. Provides peer support and referrals to appropriate professionals for members.

Security: All clients (members) must meet with a Board certified NP Professional prior to meeting with the Client Acceptance Committee.

HAWAII

HAWAII TRANSGENDERED OUTREACH: HTGO, 777 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 3114, Honolulu HI 96813. Phone 923 4270. There is someone there to answer it on some mornings. We are now approved by the IRS as a tax-exempt corporation. Donations are now tax deductible.

SEXUAL IDENTITY CENTER: See Professional Medical and Psychological Health Services.

OREGON

NORTHWEST GENDER ALLIANCE: NWGA, Box 4928, Portland OR 97208.

Nature: A non-profit, non-sexual social organization serving the crossdressing community.

Services: The Northwest Chapter has at least one function a month. The days vary in order to enable all of our girls to attend as often as possible. We also publish a monthly newsletter.

Security: Private interview with the chapter president.

ROSE CITY GENDER CENTER: RCGC, P O Box 12714, Portland OR 97212. 503 230 1036. All functions are held at the Living Communion Church, 3830 SE 62nd (Between Powell and Foster), Portland.

CAPITOL CITY CHAPTER: Capitol City Chapter, P.O. Box 3312, Salem OR 97302.

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual cross-dressers, transsexuals, and significant others.

Services: Support rap sessions, social events, assistance available for wig, make-up, clothing and demeanor. Monthly meetings.

Security: Individuals will be screened prior to meeting with group.

SALMACIS: The Equalitarian Feminist Social Society, Box 1604, Eugene OR 97440-1604. Sally Ann Douglas, Social Director; Leslie-Shawn Witham, hypnotherapist; 503-688-4282 (Sally Ann, 6-11 PM PST).

Nature: Salmacis is a social and service society devoted to the concept of feminism, supporting all those who are or desire to become women.

Services: Direct telephone counseling, contact with others with similar interests, contact with our central organization and other organizations, and personal growth workshops. Also publish Femmes Together and The Equalitarian Feminist. The Salmacis Social Society meets the 3rd Monday of every month, 8PM at the Riv, 39 W. 10th St., Eugene, OR.

SALISHON, The Womyn's Information Network: Box 1604, Eugene OR 97440-1604; Leslie-Shawn Witham, Director.

Nature: A service and information network for womyn who perceive themselves living an alternative lifestyle.

Services: The only femininity clinic for males and she-males that is run by a staff of professional women.

WASHINGTON

TRANSSEXUAL LESBIANS AND FRIENDS: TLF, 1202 East Pike, #950, Seattle Washington 98122. 206-292-1037.

Nature: A social group for transsexuals and lesbians. Open to the gay and transgendered community as well. We seek strength through diversity. Meetings every Friday at 6:30pm. Call for location. Significant Others especially urged to attend.

Services: We plan monthly functions. There is no membership fee.

Security: New members are screened. Members must be drug and alcohol free.

EMERALD CITY: P O Box 31318, Seattle WA 98103.

Nature: The Emerald City is a social, educational, non-profit, non-sexual organization serving the cross-dressing community.

Services: Offers frequent social and educational events ranging from private to very public. Publishes a monthly newsletter. Provides speakers and materials to the media and to public institutions to promote the acceptance of cross-dressing. Attempts to influence legislation in ways favorable to individual rights. Assists partners of cross-dressers in obtaining understanding and acceptance.

Security: Guests are welcome at monthly meetings and at other events when sponsored and escorted by a member. Prospective members must be sponsored by a member and accepted by the Board. Confidentiality of member information is carefully maintained.

THE INGERSOLL GENDER CENTER: See Professional Medical and Psychological Health Services.

SEATTLE COUNSELLING SERVICE: See Professional Psychological and Health Services.

ALASKA

THE BERDACHE SOCIETY: c/o Kyndel Fay Mercedes, Box 200324, Anchorage AK 99520. Nora Jean York, Co-founder.

Nature: A non-profit, non-sexual, social, educational, and referral organization serving the TV/TS community. Supports the concept that gender and sexual identity operate on separate but parallel continua with unity of the individual and freedom of expression and growth our primary focus. (Sumus Quod Sumus)

Services: Publishes a monthly newsletter Satin and Lace. Monthly meetings and social functions in a safe and supportive environment. Educational and personal growth programs. Wives' and significant others' support group. Mental health and medical referrals.

Security: All guests and members are expected to conduct themselves in a mature, responsible, and respectful manner. Membership is by committee after interview by chairperson or letter of referral. Anyone may receive the newsletter.

CANADA

ENTRE FEMME; QUEBEC TRANSSEXUAL ASSOCIATION INC.: Mme Viviane Belanger, 84, Boul. des Allies, Quebec, Canada G1L 1Y2. 418-529-1152.

Nature: French speaking transsexual support for both M-F and F-M.

Services: Monthly meetings, medical referrals, psychiatrists, psychologists, hormone therapy, and counselling service for parents of TS's.

Security: Private interview, after-therapy group in the hospitals in Quebec City and Montreal.

FACT - QUEBEC: c/o Mrs. Patricia Fisher, Box 293, Cote de Neiges Post Office, 5858 Cote de Neiges Boulevard, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3S 2S6.

Nature: Closely affiliated with FACT - Ontario. A non-profit support organization for transsexuals, their relatives and friends, professionals and para-professionals working in the field of gender dysphoria, and others prepared to support the aims of the Foundation.

Services: Information distribution concerning transsexualism. Offers peer support and peer counseling. Organizes support groups across Canada wherever these are feasible and has area representatives wherever possible. Provides speakers on transsexualism to the mass media and others.

Security: Inquire.

FACT - OTTAWA: Box 9155, Ottawa, ON, Canada K1G 3T9.

Nature: Support group primarily for transsexuals.

Services: Meetings monthly on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

Security: Contact FACT president through the Ottawa Gayline (613) 238-1717. Arrange a time for a callback.

TRANSITION SUPPORT: c/o The Church Street Community Centre, 519 Church Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4Y 2C9.

Nature: Transsexual support.

Services: Annual membership fee ($25.00 Cdn) includes monthly meetings and 12-issue sub to Trans News newsletter. Newsletter subscription alone, $15.00. Meetings held at 7:30 pm on the second Friday of each month. Meetings are open to TVs, TS's, TG's, SO's, helping professionals, and interested, caring members of the general public.

Security: None. Inquire for details.

STREET OUTREACH SERVICES (SOS): 622 Yonge St, 2nd Fl, Toronto, ON M4Y 1Z8 CANADA. (416) 926-0744 (24 hours).

Nature: Non-profit Anglican Houses program specifically designed to address the needs of youth, aged 16-24 years engaged in, or drifting towards, the lifestyle of prostitution.

Services: Drop-in center (M-F 9:30 am - 5:30 pm), rap groups, legal, medical and welfare consultants, street and office work with youth, AIDS program, one-to-one workers, 24-hour crisis line.

GENDER MOSAIC (formerly Nu Omicron Phi): Gender Mosaic, P.O. Box 7421, (Ottawa) Vanier, Ontario, Canada K1L 8E4, (613) 749 5203.

Nature: Social support group for transgendered people and their significant others.

Services: Phone line, bi-monthly newsletter, pamphlet, and socials.

Security: Private interview with a qualified member.

THE TRANSIE TIMES: See Commercial and Professional Publications and Services.

TORONTO CROSSDRESSERS' CLUB: 429C Dundas Street, East Toronto, Ontario, CANADA M5A 2A9. 416-864-0420 24 hours.

Nature: Open, non-sexual, support, social and educational outreach club with an accent on FUN for cross-dressers, transsexuals, transgenderists, spouses, significant others, friends, female impersonators, and drag queens.

Services: Parties on the second and fourth Fridays, and every Saturday. Membership includes CDC News subscription. The third Saturday is Ladies Night Out in a local restaurant. Space for storage and changing, private transformation room, and two over night guest rooms. Located in downtown Toronto.

Security: Modest screening process.

Arrive dressed, or dress at the Club. Write, call, or send $8.00 for current CDC News.

MONARCH SOCIAL CLUB: M.S.C., Box 579, Agincourt, ON M1S 3C6 CANADA

Nature: Non-profit non-sexual social organization serving TV's and TS's, their spouses, and friends.

Services: Private and public functions, a correspondence and peer linking service for members. Publishes the quarterly Monarch magazine. Sponsors the annual Mardi Gras Weekend outing the last weekend in August (Owen Sound).

Security: By member referral or filling in a club questionnaire application form. Inquiries welcome.

PHI SIGMA - TRI-ESS: c/o Sara Geddis, Box 2546, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada T1A 8G8.

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual cross-dressers and their significant others.

Services: See Society for the Second Self, Tulare, CA.

Security: Inquire.

CORNBURY SOCIETY: Cornbury Society, Box 3745, Vancouver, BC V6B 3Z1 CANADA.

Nature: Non-sexual support group for heterosexual cross-dressers.

Services/Security: Inquire for meeting times and locations, and security requirements.

GENDER MOSAIC: Niki Ross, P O Box 7421, Vanier (OTTAWA), ONT., K1L-8E4, CANADA.

Nature: Crossdressing support group.

CHRYSALIS: Chrysalis, Box 30, 12 Water St., Kitchener, Ontario, N2H 5A5, CANADA.

Nature: Support group.

Services: Regular meeting on the third Friday of every month at 298 Frederick, Kitchener, from 7:00pm till 10:00pm.

ENGLAND

BEAUMONT SOCIETY: BM, Box 3084, London WC1N-3XX England.

Nature: Beaumont is a non-profit, non-sexual organization for heterosexual transvestites throughout Great Britain.

Services: Evening and weekend functions, counselling for TV's with problems, and a contact system for members. Publishes The Beaumont Bulletin which contains editorial notices, personal ads, a shopping guide, regional news, and articles on related matters. Beaumont provides a library, legal advice, and a liaison and referral service to other organizations. Beaumont has a network of organizations throughout Great Britain, and affiliations worldwide.

Security: Private interview with a qualified member.

WOMEN OF THE BEAUMONT SOCIETY: BM, W.O.B.S., Box 3084, London 2C1N-3XX England.

Nature: A wives', partners', and families' support group for those who find the transvestite behavior difficult to understand.

Services: A confidential support service.

Security: Confidentiality assured.

THE BM PARTNERS GROUP: BM, Box 6093, London WC1N 3XX ENGLAND

Nature: A support group for partners and families of transsexuals.

Services: A confidential support network by which people with similar problems can be put in touch with each other and given sympathetic help.

Security: Inquire.

SEAHORSE SOCIETY: BM Seahorse, Box 6093, London WC1N 3XX ENGLAND

Nature: A social organization for transvestites and transsexuals.

Services: Regular newsletter, social events, etc.

Security: Confidentiality assured.

BEAUMONT TRUST: BM Charity, Box 6093, London WC1N 3XX ENGLAND

Nature: Registered charity and voluntary body funded by donations.

Services: Assists those directly troubled by gender dysphoria or interested in their care. Provides referrals to appropriate organizations, professional counsellors, self-help groups, etc. Assists the gender dysphoric person and his or her family to come to terms with the problem.

Security: Inquire.

TV/TS SUPPORT GROUP: The TV/TS Group, 2 French Place, Shoreditch, London ENGLAND E1 6JB (off Bateman's Row). Telephone Helpline: 071-729-1466. Hours: 8-10pm Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Nature: Support/social Group for TV's, TS's, families and friends. Registered Charity #295376; member of the National Council of Voluntary Organizations (NCVO).

Services: Peer support for CD's, TS's, wives and partners. Publishes The Glad Rag and other useful and informative publications. Meetings Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings, 7:30 p.m. to midnight, Wednesday 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Comfortable lounge, refreshments, social areas, storage lockers, dressing room.

Security: Open meetings, but VERY conscious of the need for individual security. All that is asked is a name to call you by.

PARTNERS' SUPPORT GROUP (TV/TS/SUPPORT): 081-204-4187 most days between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Nature: Special telephone helpline for WOMEN (wives, mothers, etc.)

Security: See above.

THE GENDER DYSPHORIA TRUST (Formerly SHAFT): The Gender Dysphoria Trust, BM Box No. 7624, London WC1N 3XX ENGLAND

Nature: A self help group for those who consider themselves to be transsexual.

Services: Bi-monthly newsletter, handbook, and other relevant material. Annual subscription. Confidential contact system for members.

Security: Confidentiality assured.

NEW TRANSESSEX: P.O. Box 3, Basildon, Essex, England SS 14 1PT; 0268-583761, evenings 7:00 - 10:30pm.

Nature: TV/TS social club.

Services: Meetings 2nd Friday of every month at the Kavorah Manor. There is a Club newsletter, Narcissus, and a help line.

Security: Inquire

MERSEYSIDE TV/TS GROUP: 54 Seel Street, Liverpool, England L1 4DE; 051-708-0234. D. S. Cochran, Secretary.

Nature: See Beaumont Society.

Services: Above address is the Scruples Club which is open from 8:00pm to 10:00pm on Friday nights, only. You would be well advised to call and confirm.

GENDER TRANSIENT AFFINITY (Isle of Wight): GTA, c/o Miss Phaedra Kelley, Box 2, 1 Bank Buildings, Freshwater, Isle of Wight, P040 9AJ, UK of GB.

Nature: A non-profit organization dedicated to helping any transgendered person in any way possible.

Services: A network of friends communicating by mail. A "Global Village" project which is a collection of groups and organizations from around the world. Designed to "cement the bond of mutual respect and affinity among us," publishing news from around the world, travel routes between countries, etc. There is a museum and library.

THE NORTHERN CONCORD (Manchester): Jenny Baker, The Northern Concord, P.O. Box 258, Manchester, M60 1LN ENGLAND

Nature: A non-profit social and support group for transvestites, transsexuals, their wives and significant others. Associated with the Beaumont Society, and the TV/TS Support Group.

Services: Meetings at a Bistro in Manchester city every Wednesday night from 7:00 - 12:00. Publishes a quarterly magazine Cross Talk.

Security: Inquire.

ROSE'S: P.O. Box 339, Sheffield S1 3SX ENGLAND. 0742-342870.

Nature: A private house offering comprehensive facilities to help all who love 'dressing' - not only those who cross-dress, but their wives and girlfriends and other ladies who love 'dressing up.'

Services: Regular social evenings and parties, visits and accommodation at other times by arrangement. Quarterly publication Repartee.

Security: Full confidentiality assured.

SCOTLAND

THE SCOTTISH TV/TS GROUP: c/o Julie Bradshaw, 53/6 Bread Street, Edinburgh EH3 9AH. Tel. 031 - 228-2231.

Nature: Non-profit non-sexual TV/TS Support Group.

Services: Publish The Tartan Skirt, a bi-monthly collection of original articles and gleanings from the media.

Security: Open meetings on the last Saturday of every month in private rooms in Edinburgh. Very conscious of the need for individual security.

IRELAND

BELFAST TV/TS GROUP: Cara Friend, P.O. Box 44, Belfast BT1 1SH IRELAND phone Belfast 322 023 on evening of meeting.

Nature: Social support group for TV's, TS's, friends, mostly tea & chat.

Services: Meetings in Belfast on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 7:45 - 10:00pm.

Security: Call first.

FRANCE

ASSOCIATION BEAUMONT CONTINENTALE: Gaby Linsig, 2 Rue des Charpentiers, 68270 Wittenheim, France.

Nature: See, Beaumont Society, in the England listings.

SWITZERLAND

KONTAKTFORUM FEMME TRAVESTIE: 8023 Zurich, Switzerland Postfach 6788.

Nature: Very active social group in Switzerland. Other details are unavailable at this time.

DENMARK

F.P.E. NORTHERN EUROPE: FPE-NE, Postboks 192 DK 2600, Glostrup, Denmark.

Nature: See listing for Norway.

GERMANY

TRANSIDENTITAS: Transidentitas, Menschen Mit Abweichender Geschlects Identitat, Postfach 10 10 46, 6050 Offenbach GERMANY. Phone: 069 8001008.

Nature: Support group for transvestites and transsexuals.

Services: Inquire

TV CLUB HAMBURG: Postfach 26 14 26, 2000 Hamburg 26 GERMANY Phone: 040.250.13.13 (Christel Grunwald).

Nature: Inquire

Services: Inquire

TRANSVESTITENGRUPPE: c/o MANNEGE, UHLANDSTR. 161, 1000 BERLIN 15, GERMANY Phone: 030 882 23 70.

Nature: Support group for men who like to cross-dress.

Services: Counselling, monthly open meetings, public discussions about gender issues, and politics for a non-sexist society.

Formerly known as MANNER IN FRAUENKLEIDEN.

NORWAY

F.P.E. (Northern Europe): FPE-NE, Postboks 1968 VIKA, N 0125 Oslo 1 NORWAY.

Nature: A non-profit, non-sexual organization for heterosexual transvestites throughout Scandinavia with independent governed regions in Sweden, Denmark, and Norway.

Services: Monthly meetings, and twice a year weekend functions. Counselling for TV's with problems, and a contact system for members. Publishes Feminform, an informative, quarterly publication. A private library for members.

Security: Private interview with qualified member.

SWEDEN

F.P.E. (SWEDEN): FPE-NE, Box 529, S 101 30 Stockholm, SWEDEN 08-604 13 93

Nature: See F.P.E. Northern Europe.
Services: Publishes Feminform, the magazine for FPE-NE. Weekend meetings in Stockholm, and throughout Sweden.
Security: Private interview with qualified member.

ISLAM
Phaedra Kelley gives addresses for two TV/TS groups:

TURKEY

A group representing transvestites and transsexuals of Turkey, but DO Not mention the name of the group on the envelope. Communication is best in German, French, or Spanish.
Demet Demir, Baskut Sok, No69/7 Taksim, Instanbul, Turkey

PAKISTAN

Khusra of PakistanMuhamid Aslam Khusra, Ex-Candidate, PF-34 Abbotabad, c/o Hockey Stadium, Abbotabad, Pakistan Phone code 059216158 and leave message, or 05921 2858 Since "Khusra" means"transvestite" or "eunuch," this group is not underground.

JAPAN

ELIZABETH CLUB: Tsutsui building 5F 2-8-4, Suada-Cho, Kanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101, Japan.
Nature: The Elizabeth Club was established in 1979 for transsexuals, androgynes, and transgenderists. We are located in major centers such as Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya.
Services: We offer storage facilities for our members. We also have consultants available for helping members with make-up and dressing. There is a rental service of clothing, wigs, and other related items for members. The Club (through Ant Trading Co., listed below) also publishes a magazine called Queen every other month. This magazine serves as a source of information to members on activities and events in Japan.

ANT TRADING COMPANY: Publisher of Queen Magazine. See Commercial and Professional Publications and Services.

AUSTRALIA

THE SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES - SYDNEY: The Secretary, Box 146, Ulladulla, New South Wales 2538, Australia.
Nature: The Seahorse Society is a non-profit social organization for transvestites and families. The Society is a member in good standing of the Association of Self-Help Organizations and Groups, 39 Darghan Street, Glebe 2037, N.S.W., Australia. Seahorse welcomes new members and overseas visitors, offering support to those of us unable to emerge by means of affiliate membership.
Services: Seahorse distributes information on shopping, coming events, and being femme through a monthly newsletter to members. Meetings provide friendship, beauty assistance, and help with related matters.
Security: Seahorse places strong emphasis on security for all members and requires screening of prospective members before attending meetings. However, no screening is required of affiliate members (who are not advised of meeting places) unless they wish to become full members. Overseas members are screened in the same way; overseas visitors must either be screened or have accreditation from a similar (Beaumont, Tiffany, etc.) organization.

SEAHORSE CLUB OF QUEENSLAND: Denyse Stewart, PO Box 386, Woolloongabba, Queensland 4102, Australia. Complete details of activities not yet available.

THE SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES - GLEBE: c/o Bernadette Cross, Box 168, Westgate, N.S.W., 2048.
Nature: See Seahorse - Sydney, above.
Services: Likewise refer to Seahorse - Sydney.
Security: Inquire.

THE SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF VICTORIA: SSV, c/o GPO Box 2337V, Melbourne, VICTORIA, Australia. Jan Baxter, President.
Nature: The largest continuously active club in Australia. A non-profit, non-sexual social/support organization for cross-dressers and their families.
Services: SSV regularly publishes the Seahorse Victoria newsletter. We sponsor social activities, outings, and related events.
Security: Inquire.

THE FLAMINGO ASSOCIATION: P O Box 284, Doonside N.S.W 2767. Australia. Janice West, Director.
Nature: Support group for cross-dressers.
Services: Regular meetings, referrals to helping professionals and vendors, social events for individuals and for families.
Security: Write for further information.

CAROUSEL CLUB: c/o Linda Allen, Box 721, Couandilla, South Australia 5033
Nature: A new group dedicated to the welfare of others like ourselves.
Services: Unknown at press time.
Security: Unknown at press time.

THE ELAINE BARRIE PROJECT: EBP, Box 405, Altona, Victoria 3018, Australia; tele 369-2613.
Nature: A non-profit self-help group for TV's and TS's. Self-funding and self-supporting.
Services: Regular monthly social meetings and education projects throughout the year. A large reading and video sex education library with emphasis on genuine TV- and TS-related issues. Guest speakers. Publish the Nu-Scene newsletter.
Security: Almost anyone over the age of 18 (TV, TS, helping professional, families, friends, and significant others) is welcome. One factor takes precedence over all others: that the visitor or member behaves in a civilized manner and bears us no ill will.

NEW ZEALAND

HEDESTHIA: Hedesthia Central, Box 78-026, Grey Lynn, Auckland, New Zealand.
Nature: Affiliated with the Beaumont Society.

THE MINORITIES TRUST & TRANSCARE / NEW ZEALAND: The Minorities Trust, Box 2983, Wellington, NZ. Telephone: Wgtn (04) 844-764; (work) 737-800 ext 8642 Miss Leone Jeanne Neil.
Nature: A low-profile, high powered lobby group promoting the rights of transpeople. A confidential, culturally divergent community support group helping meet the social and emotional needs of transpeople.
Services: Personal counselling, employment opportunities, professional and medical referrals, periodical publications, and a non-threatening social environment for functions and entertainment.
Security: Call or write.

SOUTH AFRICA

THE PHOENIX SOCIETY: Box 375, Parow, 7500, Cape Town, Republic of South Africa. Marlene Knoetze, President.
Nature: The Phoenix Society is a non-profit, non-sexual social organization. All transpeople, whatever their race, politics, religion, colour, sexual orientation or nationality, together with those closely associated with them are welcome.
Services: Publishes Fanfare magazine, actively trying to change attitudes in South Africa. Creating support groups in all major cities. Provides contacts.
Security: New members are "sponsored" by full members. All lists are confidential.

PROFESSIONAL, MEDICAL, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH SERVICES

(IFGE does not guarantee the quality of the individuals and services listed.)

PEOPLESYSTEMS POTENTIAL: Niela Miller, MS ED, LCSW, P O Box 132, Nagog Woods, MA 01718. (508) 264-4565.
Services: Counseling for cross-dressers, gender confused persons, partners, family members. Also, workshops on personal development.

THESEUS COUNSELING SERVICES: 233 Harvard Street, Suite 301, Brookline, MA 02146, 617-277-4360; 44 Chapel Street, Augusta, ME 04330, 207-623-2327.
Nature: Counseling that specializes in gender issues.
Services: Counseling CD's and TV's, couples counseling where dressing is an issue in the relationship, gender clarification for gender shift people, long-term counseling for pre-op TS's, F-M counseling, weekend programs for couples, post-op TS counseling, professional supervision for social workers and guidance counselors, gender blending and androgyny, and codependency counseling. Ari Kane, M.Ed., Gender Specialist.
Security: All sessions are by appointment.

DENNIS PEARNE, Ed.D.: Consultations: 9 Alexander Ave, Belmont Ctr, MA 02178. Mailing: Dennis Pearne, Ed.D., 133 Grove St. Watertown, MA 02172. Office: (617) 484-0013.
Nature: Clinical psychologist.

NANCY STRAPKO, Ph.D.: Nancy Strapko, Ph.D., RFD 1, Box 2081, Plymouth NH 03264. Office is in Concord MA.
Nature: Gender Specialist, Psychotherapist serving the New England area.
Services: Private, couples, and group therapy. Formerly with the University of Minnesota.

CHESHIRE COUNSELING ASSOCIATES: 104 Cross St., Keene, NH 03431. (603) 357-5544. Ken DeVoid, Ed.D.
Nature: Transvestite, transsexual, and gender identity counseling.
Services: Individual consultation and counseling in confidential setting, support group. Weekend and evening appointments available.

HUMAN OUTREACH AND ACHIEVEMENT INSTITUTE (HOAC) aka OUTREACH INSTITUTE: 405 Western Avenue, Suite 345, South Portland, ME 04106. 207-755-0858. Ari Kane, M.Ed., Director. See NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC OF NEW ENGLAND: GICNE, 68 Adelaide Road, Manchester, CT 06040. The Reverend Canon Clinton R. Jones, Director; 203-646-8651.
Service: Provides screening for pre-operative TS applicants desirous of hormone therapy. Also provides screening for sex reassignment surgery approval for pre-operative TS's who have met the requirements of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association's Standards of Care.

METAMORPHOSIS: P O Box 6245, Broadway Station, Long Island City, NY 11106, 718-728-4615.
Nature: Professional psychotherapy, individual and group support, family counseling, evaluations, treatment for all gender related situations, particularly for transsexuals. Full transition support. Call or write for appointment and information.

ANDROGYNY UNLIMITED: Box 4887, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602, 914-452-8405. Roger E. Peo, Ph.D., Director.
Nature: A private service providing counseling, research, and education.
Services: Individual counselling is provided by Dr. Peo, a Board-certified sexologist. Counseling is for transgendered persons and their significant others. Referrals are made where appropriate. Classes, seminars, and workshops on transgender issues and human sexuality are provided both for college and graduate-level students and for other groups.
Security: Appointments for counseling can be made by phoning or by writing Dr. Peo at the above address.

PERSAD CENTER, INC.: 5100 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15224-1616, (412) 441-0857. Randal G. Forrester, James Huggins.
Nature: Mental health services for the gender conflicted and their significant others.
Services: Individual therapy, support group, evaluation and treatment for transsexualism including: gender identity team which provides initial and on-going evaluation, hormonal therapy, and sex-reassignment therapy.

SEXOLOGY ASSOCIATES, INC.: H. Martin Malin, Ph.D., 4835 Del Ray Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Nature: Counseling for transgendered persons.

CENTER FOR GENDER REASSIGNMENT: Deborah M. Gilbert, R.N., Coordinator, 400 W. Brambleton Avenue, Suite 300, Norfolk, VA 23510. (804) 622-9900.

Nature: Intake and evaluation center for persons seeking permanent gender reassignment and SRS.

Services: A carefully prepared gender transition program which meets or exceeds all aspects of the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care for transsexually inclined persons.

Security: Applicants to this program are subjected to a thorough screening by a highly qualified staff of medical and gender professionals. An 18-month period of successful cross-living and a minimum of six months' hormone therapy is required prior to consideration for surgery.

C.O.P.E. CENTER, INC.: P O Box 607, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433. Clyde E. Trautloff, MA, CAP, CAS, Program Manager.

Nature: Private, not-for-profit Mental Health Center.

Services: Individual, group, and family therapy for those with issues around sexuality. Rap groups and individual problem solving.

Services: Strict confidentiality. All inquiries will be interviewed.

ADELE KATES & ASSOCIATES, P.A.: 1 N.E. 168th Street, North Miami Beach FL 33162. 305-651-6442. Certified & Licensed Speech Pathologist, Adele Kates, Director.

Services: Transsexual voice change and gender identity. Includes: body language, makeup, fashion, hair styling, female communication patterns. By appointment.

NORTH CENTRAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: 1301 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43201. 614-299-6600.

Nature: Mental health hotline and service provider.

Services: Can provide individual counseling and mental health services as well as referrals about gender issues.

CENTRAL IOWA GENDER INSTITUTE: C.I.G.I., Susan McIntyre, MSW ACSW, P.O. Box 12006, Des Moines, IA 50412. (515) 277-7754

Nature: C.I.G.I. offers professional and confidential counseling and supportive services to CD's, TS's, AN's, and others with gender related issues. Emphasizes fulfillment of each individual's potential.

Services: Individual and couple counseling, family therapy, educational services, referrals, resource listings/tapes, rap groups, grooming help, makeup tips. Advocacy and other gender related services available as necessary or requested.

Security: Emphasizes confidentiality, and respect.

MILWAUKEE TRANSGENDER PROGRAM: Milwaukee Transgender Program, Pathways Counseling Center, 6815 West Capitol Dr., Suite 310, Milwaukee, WI 53216. 414-466-6040 Gretchen M. Fincke, MSSW, Dir.

Nature: A therapy program for M-F and F-M transsexuals.

Services: A complete program of emotional support, evaluation and re-assignment hormone therapies and sexual reassignment surgeries.

INSTITUTE FOR PSYCHOSEXUAL HEALTH: 5594 North Hollywood Ave., Suite 204, Whitefish Bay, WI 53217. (414) 332-1880. Charles A. Kiley, MSW, ACSW.

Nature: Gender clinic for persons in transition, counseling for compulsive sexual behavior including fetishistic transvestism.

Services: Thorough evaluation, emotional support, hormonal and surgical reassignment services.

PATHWAYS COUNSELING CENTER: Pathways Counseling Center, First Financial Building, Suite 230, 2645 N. Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI 53226-1304. 414-774-4111.

Nature: A qualified and diversified staff of therapists in psychological areas, sex therapy, spiritual growth, Reiki Healing, marriage and family therapy, and intervention.

GENDER DYSPHORIA PROGRAM - PROGRAM IN HUMAN SEXUALITY, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA: Eli Coleman, Ph.D., Program in Human Sexuality, FMC Building, 1300 South 2nd Street, Minneapolis, MN 55454. (612) 625-1500.

Nature: A professionally managed gender program based on the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association's Standards of Care. Administered by the University of Minnesota's Department of Family Practice and Community Health.

Services: Presently treats about 250 gender dysphoric clients. The program provides initial assessment, therapy, and various treatment options (including, but not limited to, sex reassignment surgery). Post surgical therapy is also offered as a follow-up measure. Support and other psychological services are available for families and children of gender dysphorics as well. Therapy, physical health care, and all related assistance are provided in the context of a fully professional environment.

PROGRAM IN HUMAN SEXUALITY: Program in Human Sexuality, FMC Bldg., 1300 South Second St., Minneapolis, MN 55454. (612) 625-1500.

GENDER DYSPHORIA PROGRAM FOR TRANSSEXUALS: Alice Webb, MSW, CSW-ACP, 1917 Broadway, Suite 2, Galveston, TX 77550.

Nature: Psychotherapy (individual & couple for both TS & TV), group meetings (not necessary to be in treatment to attend), referrals for hormones (must be in treatment), electrolysis, speech, legal services and SRS. Strict adherence to Harry Benjamin Standards.

Services: Group meetings are held 1st Saturday of each month, 8:00 pm. No fee. Long distance calls returned collect. No night calls. Primarily for persons self identifying as transsexuals.

Security: Must meet Ms Webb.

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC: Tomye Kelley, MA, 8972 Oberon Rd, Arvada, CO 80004. (303) 420-9885.

Nature: Practice limited to work with cross-dressers, the gender conflicted, and their significant others.

Services: Private one-on-one psychotherapy, weekly support groups, process groups for those in or preparing for transition. Also, a professional Speakers' Forum.

GENDER IDENTITY COMMITTEE: Department of Psychiatry, University of Utah, College of Medicine, 50 North Medical Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84132; 801-581-7951. Dr. Nyla J. Cole, MD.

Services: Details not available at this time.

JOHN TURNER MEMORIAL GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC: c/o Robin M. Mathy, M.A., 6330-1 E. Thomas Road Suite 210, Scottsdale, AZ 85251.

Nature: Counseling clinic led by transsexual sexologist to help patients explore the gender continuum and find the most appropriate niche(s).

ROXANNE CHERRY, M.A.: Roxanne Cherry, M.A., 937 W. Foothill Blvd., Suite F, Claremont, CA 91711, (213) 202-1820, (714) 624-6539.

Nature: Licensed marriage family child therapist.

Services: Individual, couple, group psychotherapy, gender dysphoria, sexual orientation issues.

THE PRINCE INSTITUTE: The Prince Institute, P.O. Box 2916, Palm Springs, CA 92263 Angela Prince, Ph.D. Director.

Nature: A private transgender awareness center offering counselling, education, and support services.

Services: Individual and/or group counseling primarily for the cross-dresser/transvestite and/or his significant other. Trans-gender, human sexuality, and personal development classes, seminars, and workshops are also available. Services may be conducted through office visits, by telephone, or by correspondence.

Security: Total confidentiality.

GENDER DYSPHORIA PROGRAM OF ORANGE COUNTY, INC.: 32158 Camino Capistrano, Suite 203, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675. 714-240-7020. Wm. G. Heard, Ph.D., Director.

Nature: A comprehensive program for gender dysphoric persons. Our program is one of many options available. It is a composite of evaluative and treatment techniques developed over the years by the more successful programs, which permit extensive screening and interaction of the patient at minimum cost, integrating the patient into the mainstream of society.

Services: Our program is structured to permit the patient to explore alternatives to sex reassignment while providing an effective support mechanism during transition. Our program is a 4-block procedure consisting of intake, transition/support, surgery approval/disapproval, and follow-up.

GENDER COMMUNITY ADVOCATES: GCA, Ms Tauria Linala, P.O. Box 6333, Santa Maria, CA 93454. (805) 922-1309...voice, (805) 549-0961...data.

Nature: Professional medical, psychological, and legal services co-op. A full service gender program.

Services: Crisis intervention, peer counseling, intake, psychological therapy, referrals for hormones, socialization, and referrals for all medical procedures based on the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care.

GENDER & SELF ACCEPTANCE PROGRAM: P.O. Box 4447, San Francisco, CA 94101, (415) 558-8058, Joni E. Israel, Director.

Nature: A private personal growth consultation program providing individual, couple, and small group sessions focusing on gender, self & social acceptance, wholeself integration, coming-out, cross-dressing, HIV concerns, and ACA/Co-dependency issues.

Services: Short & long-term consultation, small group support and quarterly weekend workshops focusing on gender & acceptance/integration issues. Sliding scale fee. Serving TS's, TV's, and other minorities. Provide professional consultation & training.

TENDERLOIN SELF-HELP CENTER: 191 Golden Gate Ave, San Francisco, CA 94102, (415) 554-0518.

Nature: We are an innovative, non-traditional mental health program. We are a project of Central City Hospitality House.

Services: Training in peer counseling, support group facilitation, job training. We offer peer counseling, TV/TS support groups, A.A., shelter referrals and emergency medical care referrals, and other basic survival needs. We serve the 'Tenderloin' and 'South of Market' communities of San Francisco.

REBECCA AUGE, Ph.D: 3637 Grand Ave., Suite C, Oakland, CA 94610, (415) 426-0718 or 835-9820.

Nature: Clinical Psychologist working with patients on gender issues, gender dysphoria, cross-dressing, gender role transition, couples issues, child abuse, dysfunctional family histories, among others. Member of HBIGDA, uses Standards of Care, and a sliding fee scale.

HARRY BENJAMIN INTERNATIONAL GENDER DYSPHORIA ASSOCIATION: HBIGDA, address invalid 5/14/91.

Nature: A non-profit professional group with special interest in gender dysphoria syndrome.

THE PACIFIC CENTER FOR HUMAN GROWTH: Box 908, Berkeley, CA 94701; 415-548-8283. Hot Line: 415-841-6224. Allyana Guenther, Executive Director.

Nature: A private, non-profit agency funded by the United Way, county revenue sharing funds, sliding scale fees, and contributions. The Center is dedicated to providing high-quality services to sexual minorities of all ages, races, and backgrounds.

Services: Educational services and outreach to the community at large. Speakers' Bureau, counseling, and group meetings.

ANNE VITALE, Ph.D.: D Street Counseling Group, 610 D St., San Rafael, CA 94901, (415) 456-4452.

Nature: Psychotherapist specializing in gender-related issues.

Services: In private practice, but associated with other Bay Area gender professionals, and can provide complete pre- and post-op psychotherapy, and recommendation for hormone therapy and/or sex reassignment surgery when applicable.

SEXUAL IDENTITY CENTER: Box 3224, Honolulu, HI 96801-3224; 808-926-1000.

Services: Therapists, referrals, special support group for TVs and TS's.

THE INGERSOLL GENDER CENTER: 1812 East Madison, Seattle, WA 98122, (206) 329-6651.

Nature: Ingersoll Gender Center is a non-profit counseling and referral service for the transsexual community in the Northwest. It is managed by a professional board and has eight experienced, licensed therapists with advanced degrees on contract. Ingersoll works closely with the Emerald City and Seattle Counseling Service.

Services: Individual and group counseling, professional consultation to service providers, referrals, research, and public information presentation. Weekly support meetings, public information presentations, research, and informational materials upon request.

SEATTLE COUNSELING SERVICE: 1505 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98122, 206-282-9307. Michael Auch, Executive Director.

Nature: Seattle Counseling Service is the oldest counseling service for sexual minorities in the U.S. A United Way agency, SCS receives grants from state and local sources to provide counseling and therapy for the full range of problems related to sexual issues.

Services: SCS provides a weekly support group for TV's, TS's, significant others, in-betweens, and I-don't-knows every Friday from 8 to 10 pm. Facilities for dressing on-site. Also provides crisis line.

GENDERSERVE: Box 291 Station "A", Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8N 3C8. Susan C. Huxford, Director.

Nature: Counseling, education, and research services. Registered in Ontario as a proprietorship. Operating as a non-profit organization serving TV's, TS's, and gender dysphoric people in general, homosexual people, wives, friends, and relatives. Services for a nominal fee to cover expenses. Inquiries by mail or phone. No collect calls.

Services: Counseling in sexual matters for individuals and couples. Pastoral counseling if requested. Referrals. Initial counseling session (mail or phone) free of charge. Lectures, radio/television and other mass media interviews by arrangement. Group counseling and therapy by request.

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC: c/o Dr. Betty Steiner, Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, 250 College Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5T 1R8.

Nature: Accepts referrals through the patient's General Practitioner only.

COMPUTER BULLETIN BOARDS

CD FORUM: UUCP electronic mail: **uunet!samsung!wizvax!cdforum-request** Internet electronic mail: **samsung!wizvax!cdforum-request@uunet.uu.net**

Nature: An electronic mailing list.

Services: To share experiences about gender issues. This list is in Digest Format. An archive server with resources, movie/book lists, and fiction is available. Back issues are available. Electronic mail forwarding to members. To join, send electronic mail to Stephanie P. Gilgut at the above address. Your first contribution should include a brief bio. Contributions for publication should be sent by email to:
UUCP: **uunet!samsung!wizvax!cdforum**
Internet: **samsung!wizvax!cdforum@uunet.uu.net**

THE JERSEY SHORE SYSTEM: Ocean County, NJ; 609-693-8849. 300/1200 baud, 8N1.

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board Service.

Services: Log on using the name APRIL MAY with the password of FRIENDS (all caps). This will get you into a sub-board of the main system. After you have logged on as above you may register the name of your choice for future access.

GENDERLINE:

Nature: BBS (Compuserve Information Service).

Services: Nodes nationwide. Admission by subscription to Compuserve and by permission by System Operator HSX forum B (GO HSX 200 at any prompt). Discrete support community for both TV's and TS's. Consists of closed forum, conference area, and extensive data library of factual information and archived discussions of topics of concern.

PASSING FANCY: Alexandria, VA, 703-765-6290; 300/1200/2400 baud, 8N1.

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board Service. Both a public and a private section. The private section is available for subscribers only. Answer the "SYSTEM ID" prompt with "FANCY" to gain access to the public section.

IXE BBS: Indianapolis, IN, 317-784-6975.

Services: Users must be registered with the Adult BBS before access will be given. Upon access type <J> then <I>.

TV/TS GENDER FORUM: Grand Rapids, MI, 616-676-2429; 300/1200/2400 baud, 8N1.

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board Service. The Gender Forum is a closed forum accessible exclusively by members of the gender community, and professionals that work with us.

Services: The Gender Forum also has a **'Companion Support Forum'** exclusively for significant others, spouses, and partners.

CAROLYN'S CLOSET: Minneapolis, MN; 612-452-2676; 300/1200 baud, 8N1.

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board: Totally free. A very nice, user-friendly board with some very nice user-written fiction and stories.

US TOO: Chicago, IL, 312-252-7024; 300/1200/2400 baud 8N1

Nature: Non-profit transsexual support Bulletin Board Service affiliated with the Sunday Society.

Services: Very user friendly BBS with four sub-boards (M-F TS, F-M TS, TV, general).

Security: Call first.

CROSS LINK: Denver, CO, (303) 665-3746. 300/1200 baud, 8 bits, 1 stop bit, no parity.

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board Service.

Services: When you log on you will see, "You have reached M&D's Travelling Circuits BBS Where YOU Are the Main Attraction!" Name? Last Name? Follow instructions, answer questions. Enter the name "CROSS-LINK".

SEARCHLIGHT OF SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA BBS: San Luis Obispo, CA, (805) 549-0961. 300/1200/2400 baud, 8N1 standard modem parameters.

Nature: BBS affiliated with Gender Community Advocates.

Services: Access information on full service gender program, counseling, referrals, peer linking, and education. 24-hour BBS. Be sure to complete questionnaire stating TV or TS when prompted for 'Sexual Minority Type'. Gay/Lesbian and Adults Only sections also available.

FEMINET: 408-335-4387 300/1200/2400 baud, 8 bit, no parity, one stop bit. Software: QuickGGS 2.03 (highly modified).

Nature: Electronic bulletin board serving the gender community. Specialty: general resource for all TV's, TS's, and all other persons interested in transgendered lifestyles. Largest BBS devoted to gender issues.

Services: Access: Answer all new-login questions and you will be logged onto Digicomputronica, a public "front" for Feminet. Enter "P" (for password). Password is "KEY" (without quotes). 24 hours. Financed by contributions.

CROSS-CONNECTION: Los Angeles, CA; 818-549-0529. 300/1200/2400 8N1

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board Service geared towards the Gender Community.

Services: News and information, courtesy of Cross-Talk, National Gender Forums and on-line chat, stories, poetry, friends, and fun! Group Newsletter and Publication exchange. Other professional data services to the community. Shopping Mall on-line early '92! Log on with user-ID "VALLEY GIRL" and use password "VISITOR" then follow instructions.

TerraNet BBS: (714) 248 2836. 300/1200/2400/4800/9600 baud, 8 bit, NO parity, 1 stop bit, Full Duplex. Hours of operation: 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Nature: Electronic bulletin board serving the gender community and PWA's (Persons with AIDS). Southern California gateway to the TRANSGENDERNET, TRANSITION, NEW_WOMEN, NEW_MEN, DRESS*UP, and GENDER POLITICS echoes of TGnet and AIDS/ARC echo, part of FIDOnet. Provides one of the largest full-text databases on gender and AIDS related issues. TerraNet is an outreach service of J2CP Information Services, P O Box 184, San Juan Capistrano CA 92693-0184.

RAINBOW GENDER ASSOCIATION: RGA, P O Box 700730, San Jose CA 95170. 408-248-4162, 1200-2400 baud 8N1.

Nature: Non-profit Computer Bulletin Board Service.

Services: Gender community support. Two levels of service: public and private. SYSOP Michelle Stevens. First time users should have a private code word ready that you can remember. Public section is used by spouses and significant others.

COMMERCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS AND SERVICES

TAPESTRY PUBLICATIONS: Tapestry, Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778. (617) 899-2212, FAX (617) 899-5703. Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Director.

Nature: Tapestry Publications is a division of I.F.G.E.

Services: The TV/TS Tapestry is I.F.G.E's primary publication. We also publish and market a wide variety of how-to books, presentation transcripts, anthologies of pertinent reprints, directories, and other timely material. Tapestry Publications is designed as the gender community's own publishing house.

TRANSFORMATIONS, Reflections On Gender Roles And Religious/Spiritual Values: Joy Helms, P.O. Box 1355, Princeton, NJ 08542.

Nature: A non-profit quarterly newsletter which addresses the relationship between issues relating to gender struggles and religious/spiritual values.

CREATIVE DESIGN SERVICES: Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406; 215-640-9449.

Nature: A commercial concern marketing a line of products and services for the TV/TS Community.

Services: Publish Art and Illusion: a Guide to Crossdressing and LadyLike Magazine, sponsors Paradise in the Poconos weekends in May and September.

Security: None.

THE TRANSSEXUAL VOICE: Box 16314, Atlanta, GA 30321.

Nature: A newsletter written by and about transsexuals. $2.00 per copy; $12.00 per year.

BLOSSOM C. PASTER: 28417 Trident Court, Wesley Chapel, FL 33543. (813) 973-0987.

Nature: A private setting where CDs can take their wardrobe and makeup questions.

Services: Peer counseling, problem solving, dressing, electrolysis, and makeup advice by a longtime professional member of the Gender Community. There is a fee.

Security: Call or write.

CHANGING MEN: Editorial Office & Subscriptions, 306 N. Brooks St, Madison WI 53715.

Nature: An international magazine dealing with the issues of gender, sex, and politics.

SCD PUBLISHING: 1401 Melrose Ave, Minneapolis MN 55426-1843.

Nature: TV/TS publishing house.

Services: Publishes TV/TS Talk bimonthly for members and supporters of the TV/TS Community. TV/TS Talk is modeled after the Penthouse Forum, but deals exclusively with gender related issues. $3.50 per issue; $21.00 per year.

CROSS-TALK: P O Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91355, 818-776-8503. Kymberleigh Richards, Editor & Publisher.

Nature: Monthly non-sexual, non-

fiction newsletter. Also publishes semi-annual Southern California resource guide.

Services: News items of concern to the gender community, highlights of tabloid press, editorials, make-up and fashion tips, psychological insights, significant others column, original comic strips, national events listings, and feature articles. $21.00/year, $42.00/2 years (US - write for foreign rates). Sample issue $2.00.

Security: Mailing list kept confidential, accessed only by publisher.

THE CROSSDRESSER'S QUARTERLY: John Moran Photo-Graphix (JMPG), P.O. Box 7217, Burbank, CA 91510-7217.

Services: News, events, photogramps, fetish fashions, shopping resources, personal & vendor & club profiles. $7.00

THE AMERICAN CROSSDRESSER: Chevalier Publications, P.O. Box 194, Tulare CA 93275.

Nature: A magazine for crossdressers designed to replace Transvestia.

FOCUS: FOCUS, c/o Stephen Roberts, P.O. Box 215354, Sacramento CA 95821.

Nature: A newsletter written by and for the female to male TS. Provides a place for fellow FTMs to share their feelings and experiences, and make new friends.

TV GUISE: c/o Billie Jean Jones, 3430 Balmoral Drive #10, Sacramento CA 95821.

Nature: Monthly newsletter about all kinds of gender issues. Distributed free in person. Back issues available for $1.50 each plus a SASE. Does not accept advertising. Does accept interactive submissions of letters, articles, opinions, jokes, poems, etc.

TRANSSEXUALS IN PRISON: Distribution Director: Ms Patricia Fisher, P.O. Box 293 Succ. Cote-des-Neiges, 5858 Cote-des-Neiges Blvd, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3S 2S6.

Nature: A newsletter for and about the transsexual inmate.

THE TRANSIE TIMES: T.T.T., 566 Parliament St, Toronto, ON M4X 1P8 Canada.

Nature: A monthly tabloid dedicated to transvestites and their followers.

ANT TRADING COMPANY: Ant Building 2F 5-32-18 Kameido, Koto-ku, Tokyo 136, Japan.

Nature: Publisher of Queen Magazine, Japan's premier cross-dresser's reference guide. Single-copy and subscription prices unknown at press time.

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

SEX INFORMATION AND EDUCATION COUNCIL OF THE UNITED STATES (SIECUS): SIECUS, 130 W. 42nd St; Suite 2500, New York, New York 10036. (212) 819-9770, FAX (212) 819-9776.

Nature: SIECUS is affiliated with the Department of Health Education of the School of Education, Health, Nursing, and the Arts Professions of New York University. SIECUS deals with all sexual issues, including gender expression.

J2CP INFORMATION SERVICES: PO Box 184, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693-0184.

Nature: J2CP provides information and referral services formerly provided by the Erickson Educational Foundation and the JANUS Information Facility.

Services: J2CP provides an information package consisting of pamphlets and literature concerning Gender Dysphoria Syndrome, transvestism, and transsexualism. This info package is available at a cost of $35.00 to cover research, printing, secretarial, and postage services. J2CP also provides referrals to reputable counselors, psychotherapists, gender programs, and peer groups near your home. Certified checks and money orders should be made payable to J2CP Information Services. Please specify whether you are M-F TS, F-M TS, or TV. If TS, please provide your place of birth.

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY: SFBGALHS, Box 42126, San Francisco, CA 94142.

Nature: Reference library for lesbian, gay, and transgendered persons.

Services: Large periodical collection of Bay Area and California titles preserved for research.

TRANSGENDER ARCHIVE: TGA, c/o Dr. Richard Ekins, Ulster University, Magee College, Northland Road, Londonderry BT48 7JL, Northern Ireland.

Nature: A non-profit academic research and study facility.

Services: Seeking both group and personal deposits related to every kind of Transgender regardless of sexuality or self designation of gender identity: TV/TS/TG/GT/CD, Gender Bender/Blender, Drag (all kinds), Newspaper cuttings, magazines, group journals, photos, sound and video tapes, records, artifacts of history and living history. Publishes Archive News a newsletter and news agency with three purposes: (1) To provide news for transgender groups and publications, (2) To inform the transgender community of the progress of the Archive, and (3) To help the Archive improve its deposits.

Security: One hundred percent, closed deposits accepted as noted by the depositor. Access to research material by direct application to Dr. Ekins, granted subject to his decision. Access to deposits is only granted on permission by the original depositor and Dr. Ekins after a full security consultation.

RESEARCH

TEENAGE CROSSDRESSING RESEARCH PROJECT: Sheila Kirk, P.O. Box 3214, Pittsburgh, PA 15230.

Nature: Long-term research project being conducted by a physician, a Boarded Specialist in OB-Gyn, with a research background.

Security: Parental approval required. The security of each teenager and his parents is a paramount consideration.

I.F.G.E. HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT: N. Cole, P.O. Box 241, Leavenworth, KS 66048.

Nature: Historical research project sponsored by the IFGE Educational Resources Committee. Researching the history of TV/TS organizations from 1950 to the present. The purposes are to capture the story of individuals and organizations, to create a permanent record, and provide a comprehensive education resource.

NATIONAL GENDER PROJECT: Box 126, Northridge, CA 91328 Dr. Richard F. Docter, Ph.D., Director, Department of Psychology, California State University Northridge, Northridge, CA 91330; 818-885-2828.

Nature: Individual and marital counselling for TV's, TS's, and their significant others; research on gender issues.

Services: Counselling and research on gender issues. (Dr. Richard Doctor's new book, Transvestites and Transsexuals: Toward a Theory of Cross-Gender Behavior is now available from I.F.G.E., Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778. $29.50 plus $2.50 shipping and handling.)

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Personal Listings

PERSONAL LISTINGS OBJECTIVES:

1.) To provide a means of introduction, outreach, and communications for members of the International Foundation for Gender Education. (General Subscribers and Supporting Members are considered members of I.F.G.E.)
2.) To provide non-members with a source of support and communications.
3.) To provide the general public with a better understanding of the nature of the people who are members and supporters of the Crossdressing/Transsexual Community.

WHO MAY PLACE A PERSONAL LISTING:

To place a personal listing you must be an up-to-date General Subscriber (or IFGE Supporting Member). (Please see the subscription form at the back of the Personal Listings.) As a subscriber your personal listing is free of charge for the duration of your subscription. Also, your mail will be forwarded at no cost to you.

HOW TO RESPOND TO A PERSONAL LISTING:

1.) If the address is given in the personal listing, write directly to that address.
2.) If there is no address given, follow these instructions exactly:
   (A) Place your letter in an unstamped envelope.
   (B) Pencil in the name, state prefix, and membership number (given at the bottom of the listing). (Be sure to use pencil so the name can be erased.)
   (C) Include $1.00 (for postage and handling) for each piece to be forwarded.
   (D) Place the letters to be forwarded inside another envelope, and mail to: TAPESTRY, P.O. BOX 367, WAYLAND, MA 01778

MASSACHUSETTS (010- 027-)

SUSAN A. (SE MA) (#56)
MWM TV, 30's, 5'7", 140, considered passable. Interested in collecting and wearing all kinds of lingerie, TV literature. "Interested in exchanging letters and photos with others similarly inclined."
Susan A. (MA-0064)

Janice H. (MA-0254)

JANICE H. (E MA) (#59)
Member: TCNE, Tri-Ess, TV Entertainers, NY
Participant: Fantasia Fair
Divorced WM, 64, 5'6", 155, blue eyes, brown hair. Goes out as Janice shopping, eating at restaurants, visiting other TV's. Makes friends, but is on the quiet side, write to many other TV's. "Will answer all letters. Would like to take hormones and live full time as a woman."
Janice H. (MA-0254)

AUDREY M. (E MA) (#58)
Member: TCNE
MWM bi-TV, 54, 155, 5'10", nice, intelligent, well adjusted, sense of humor. Enjoys current events, music, sailing, photography, woodworking. Writes TV stories. "Would like to have a few TV friends for casual get-togethers; freedom limited to weekdays 9-6."
Neil Moses, Box 66, Allston, MA 02134 (MA-0280)

Valerie V. (MA-0273)

VALERIE VINCENT (E MA) (#59)
Member: TCNE, IFGE.
5' 10", 150, blue eyes, make attractive looking woman. Wear finger nails over one inch long. Interested in all things feminine, corresponding to TV's, TS's and women. "Want to meet women and TS's who find TV's attractive and interesting to be with for talks, shopping, lunch, fun, and friendship. TS tendencies. Will correspond with TV's, TS's, and women."
Occupant, Box 8341, JFK Station, Boston MA 02114 (MA-0273)

Holly C. (MA-0379)

HOLLY CROSS (MA) (#99)
IFGE Board of Directors, IFGE Staff
Member: TCNE
Participant: Tiffany P-town Outing, IFGE Convention, Shangri-La, Joyce Dewhurst's Poconos Outing
SWM TV, mid-60's. Lives alone except for a lot of VHF ham gear and about 200 size 20 outfits. Is fairly active, goes to many concerts dressed, and has been to over 15 outings. Looks like a proper Boston lady, and is having a 'hell' of a good time. "I try to answer all the interesting letters, but no guarantee."
Holly C. (MA-0379)

SUZANNE C. (E MA) (#57)
Member: TCNE
DWM, over 50, strong TS tendencies. Interests include computers, cooking, being Suzie as much as possible; would love to be a housewife. "I much prefer my feminine self and live at home as a woman, although I must still work as a man. I feel completely comfortable and natural as Suzie and always think and act as a woman. I would be delighted to hear from you."
Suzanne C. (MA-0295)

Rhonda S. (MA-0317)

RHONDA SMITH (E MA) (#56)
Supporting Member: IFGE
Participant: Holiday En Femme, TCNE P-Town Outing
Awards: TCNE Service Award
TV/TS, 5'6", 130 pounds of exotic, blue-eyed, blonde temptress.
Interests: Showbiz, Fl night-clubbing, Wagnerian Ring Cycle classical music, lasers, sciences, cooking, camping. "Traveled Honolulu to Hollywood. Done Dallas, tasted the forbidden fruit and it is luscious, or as Mae West said, 'Too much of a good thing can be wonderful.'"
Rhonda S. (MA-0317)

SHARON McGRATH (MA) (#56)
Member: TCNE
Participant: Fantasia Fair, Tiffany outings
WM, 34, 5'6", 140, TV-TS. "I enjoy

everything feminine; love going out dressed for shopping and travel. Would like to meet and correspond with others her age with same interests."

Ms. Sharon McGrath (MA-0504)

Christina S. (MA-0649)

CHRISTINA SMITH (MA) (#57)

Member: TCNE

5'11", 175, brown hair & eyes. Enjoys all feminine things, especially makeup, wigs, and high fashion clothing. "I love the process of transforming myself into a woman. Since I rarely go out in public I tend to create a fantasy look . . . heavy makeup and sexy wigs. Would love to meet others who can teach me more about wig styling and makeup techniques. Will answer all who write with photo."

Christy Smith (MA-0649)

Judy T. (MA-0733)

JUDITH ANNE THOMPSON (E MA) (#56)

Member: TCNE

Widowed WM CD, 68, 5'9", 175, retired, good listener, honest and intelligent. Passes well. Likes photography, sailing, hiking, gardening, good music, living as "Judy" and helping others of our community. "Would like contact and correspondence with CD's in SE MA area for companionship and like interests."

Judith T. (MA-0733)

EVE B. (E MA) (#56)

Member: Tri-Ess

Widower, age 70, retired. Interested in dressing privately at home with invited guests. "Good friend of Ariadne Kane, and have had Virginia Prince as visitor in my home some years ago. Arthritis has limited me considerably in the past 2 years."

Eve B. (MA-0508)

Valerie P. (MA-0780)

VALERIE PAULSEN (E MA) (#59)

Member: Tiffany Club of New England.

Awards: Fantasia Fair Ms Cinderella '85

Divorced intersexual. 45, 5'11", 145. Enjoy rock and new music, movies, science, SF, night life, dancing, beaches. Never watch TV. Passionate entrepreneurial interest in laser show technology. "Love to meet someone to share all this with, and maybe more. I don't date men."

Valerie Paulsen, P.O. Box 259, Watertown, MA 02272-0259 (MA-0780)

Chris R. (MA-1354)

CHRIS ROBINS (E MA) (#57)

TS, 45. Completed legal name change. About to start on hormones. Planning to go full-time in 1992. Psychotherapist. Interests: Coming-out experiences, thrift stores, women's rights, gay rights, writing one's autobiography, Reiki healing, stuffed animals, massage, MBTI (ISFJ), meditation, dancing, TS humor, psychological and spiritual dimensions of gender variance. "I'm interested in dating nonsmoking single bisexual people of all varieties: genetic males, genetic females, M-to-F or F-to-M TS's."

Chris Robins (MA-1354)

HEATHER DAWN ANDERSON (E MA) (#58)

Member: TCNE

MWM, 40, 5'11", 130. Crossdressing since childhood, transsexual inclinations. Interested in music (rock to classical), songwriting, cooking, running. "I enjoy long walks on the seashore accompanied by intimate conversation and fun."

Heather A. (MA-0661)

SUSAN ELIZABETH R. (MA) (#57)

SWM TV, 53, 6' 180, brown hair, hazel eyes. Interested in photography, treasure hunting, 40's and 50's music, dogs, nature, and being a lady. "I would like to correspond with other girls in E. Mass., especially Metro-West area."

Susan Elizabeth R. (MA-0839)

Margarita R. (MA-1815)

MARGARITA AMANDA R. (E MA) (#56)

Member: TCNE

Participant: Coming Together, Be-All, Texas 'T' Party

SWM, 5'11", young looking and thinking, a good listener. Interested in geography, history, science, photography, classical music, camping, hiking, cooking, gardening, canning, dancing, softball, pretty and lacy feminine attire, and PEOPLE. Non-smoker for one year! Live alone on North Shore of MA. "PLEASE WRITE! All will be answered."

Margarita R. (MA-1815)

RACHEL L. (MA) (#59)

Member: IFGE.

Attended: Fantasia Fair, Be All.

"Mature male (late fifties) with transgender lifestyle desires to meet persons with transgender interests for long-term friendships and possibly shared living arrangement in Boston and/or Provincetown areas. Varied interests and serious discussion desired. Let's explore the mature years together."

Boxholder, P O Box 645, Charlestown MA 02129 (MA-0842)

DIANA E. MARSHALL (W MA) (#56)

Member: TCNE

SWM TV, never married, 42, 5'6", 125, size 7/8, loves all things feminine: long nails, heels, perfume, lingerie, makeup, and long hair. Interested in music and stereo equipment, acrylic and oil painting. "Would like to spend all my time as a girl. Would like to meet new friends and attend Tiffany functions."

Diana M. (MA-0886)

SUE FANON (W MA) (#56)

SWM TV, 34, 5'10", 160, brown eyes & hair, easy going, clean, understanding, loving & sincere. Interested in dressing up & being feminine, travel, music, & friendships. "I am a novice TV who enjoys being feminine and would like to enjoy sincere friendships with other TV's and TS's. I would like to correspond or meet a pre- or post-op transsexual."

Sue F. (MA-0983)

MICHELLE LANGE (E MA) (#57)

MWM, 40, 6', brown hair and hazel eyes. Interests include current events, sports, chess, household duties, and everything feminine. Intelligent, imaginative, and daring person seeking a friendship with nice, caring, sincere person. "I am an avid collector of TV, domination, and discipline stories, and would like to share them with a similar person."

Boxholder, Box 1065, Burlington, MA 01803 (MA-1008)

Carolyn N. (MA-1829)

CAROLYN NELSON (E MA) (#56)

Member: Tiffany Club of New England

Participant: Poconos Weekend

TV, 170, tall, but passes well. Likes very much to go out. Married; wife not supportive. Interested in passing, making lasting friendships with other TV's.

Carolyn N. (MA-1829)

ELLIE K. (MA) (#56)

Member: TCNE

DWM, 5'6", 55, quiet and lives alone. Pleasant personality. Interested in model railroading, country music, and crossdressing. Enjoys meeting people, and long rides & walks. "I'm new to crossdressing, and really can use all the help I can get. Would love to meet and correspond with others of same interests."

Ellie K. (MA-1076)

LISA COPPER (E MA) (#57)

SWM, 29, 5'10", 22. "I like to dress at home. Looking for a woman that can understand and to help me dress and look my best. Also like to meet TV/TS for friends."

Lisa Copper, P.O. Box 415, Wakefield, MA 01880 (MA-1202)

CHARLENE MANN (MA) (#58)

Member: TCNE

Friendly, outgoing human service professional and software developer, live and work in my chosen gender role. Compulsively constructive, with a generally accurate "feel" for what works and a sense of humor. Enjoy writing, bicycling, cooking, sewing, and time with friends. Would like to meet or correspond with other TS's (both directions) working in human services, both MH and MR. (I'm a slow but sure respondent.)

Charlene Mann (MA-1237)

ROBIN OLSEN (SE MA) (#57)

5'9", 145, brown hair, blue eyes. "I am interested in writing to and meeting all who are serious TS. Please write for mutual support, leading up to the final change, which I am ready for."

Robin O. (MA-1353)

LILA WALTON (MA) (#58)

"I go out nearly every Saturday night to dances. Naturally inclined this way, I do pass well and enjoy being accepted. Dancing partners ask me to go out with them. I am very interested in movies and in acting. I played the main role in a locally produced movie last year. I love to be out among people in nice places. I like to talk, and I listen."

L. Walton, P O Box 36, Harvard, MA 01451 (MA-1381)

Diana J. (MA-1999)

DIANA J. (E MA) (#57)

Cover girl in early 70's for Transvestia. About size 16, have had electrolysis, and have taken estrogens off and on for 20 years. "I enjoy being a girl! Interests include golf, canoeing, reading, writing, and living!! I also enjoy the company of my grandson."

Diana J. (MA-1999)

Kathy M. (A-2038)

KATHY MASTERS (MA) (#59)

Early 40's, 5'11", WM Paramedical, loves to help people. "Love balance between masculine and feminine. Secure in masculine world, need security in feminine lifestyle. Honest, perfect shoulder to cry on. Expert in London TV shops. Corsets, maids' costumes, and elegant dressing are my passions. Seek communication, meetings, and help from sisters."

Occupant, P O Box 558, Bolton, MA 01740 (MA-2038)

EDITH S. (MA) (#59)

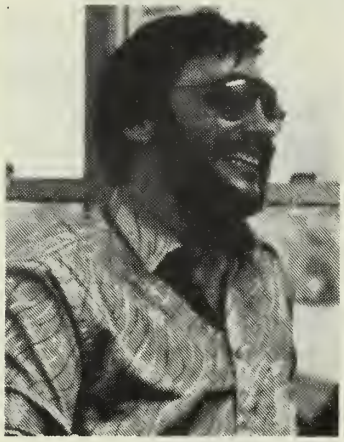
MWM, TS, 48, three children, investment counselor. Interests include squash, tennis, acting, travel, outdoor work, classical music. "I would like to talk with or meet TS's/TV's of similar background and situation to discuss how to cope with spouse, children, job, and M to F transition."

Edith S. (MA-1519)

DIANE D. (E MA) (#56)

5'9", 175, married with children. Interested in Macintosh computers, aviation, desk-top publishing, fashion. "Would love to hear from other married TV's who have not come out to their wives. Now that we have realized the truth about ourselves, how do we disclose it without making the innocent past a lie?"

Diane D. (MA-1776)



Les N. (MA-2124)

LES N. (E MA) (#57)

Post-op F-M, 30's. "Looking for correspondence to make lasting friendships with other F-M TS's, and with GG's."

Les N., P.O. Box 123, Wakefield, MA 01880 (MA-2124)

Diana D. (MA-2146)

DIANA S. DWYER (W MA) (#58)

Single CD, 25, 5'11", heterosexual. "I'm passable, but need to make more friends in the gender community. I've had a difficult time finding a positive support group. I have received many letters telling me how pretty I am. I answer, if I am so attractive, then how come I am alone most of the time? I encourage all in the gender community to write, as well as any real women."

Diana Dwyer, P.O. Box 4104, Pittsfield, MA 01202 (MA-2146)

JOANNA EDLONS (W MA) (#56)

DWM, 57, 5'10", 175.

Interested in fishing, walks, crossword puzzles, quiet times. "Live alone so I dress at home nearly every day. Go out en femme only at night since I'm not sure of passing, and apartment security makes easy in and out difficult. Need CD my age group in Central Mass. to exchange support and friendship. We can help each other."

Joanna E. (MA-1873)

CHRYSTAL RAYMOND (SE MA) (#57)

Member: Tiffany, IFGE

Participant: Coming Together, Fantasia Fair

Married, 6', 170, 44 year old CD with fashionable tastes, low budget, and enthusiastic. Interested in crossdressing, CD videos, sports, developing a support group for CD's in SE MA region. "So far, I've received inspiration from numerous responses. Will meet as a group for first time soon. Join us. Write now!"

Chrystal Raymond (MA-1923)

Nancy R. (MA-2160)

NANCY REYNOLDS (E MA) (#58)

Member: IFGE, Tiffany Club

Attended: Fantasia Fair, Texas 'T' Party, Coming Together.

Friendly. Interested in anyone with a six-figure income (good heart, sharp mind, pretty smile are acceptable substitutes). "I'm new to our community, and would enjoy hearing from others who are contemplating 'coming out.' A sunny 'Hi!' to all the beautiful ladies it has been my pleasure to meet."

Nancy Reynolds (MA-2160)

Robyn G. (MA-2208)

ROBYN GOLDSTEIN (E MA) (#58)

Member: Tiffany Club

MWM hetero TV, 42, 5'7", 160. Extremely supportive wife. 3 kids. "My wife and I, as a couple, would like to correspond with other couples wrestling with the sexual and emotional implications of CD. I go out once a month to malls and restaurants, sometimes accompanied by my wife."

Robyn Goldstein, P.O. Box 6211, Boston, MA 02114 (MA-2208)

LISA C. (MA) (#57)

MWM, 33, 5'8". Lisa is willing to help others become happy too. "I have just started to realize that to be truly happy, I must accept that one is what one is. Would like to meet others at this stage of 'becoming'."

Lisa C. (MA-1956)

LAUREN D. (MA) (57)

5'10", 185, 30, married, hetero, monogamous CD with supportive wife. Enjoy most sports, camping, crossdressing, and improving my image. "My wife and I wish to correspond and possibly meet with other CD couples in the North Shore area for friendship, understanding, and helping. Will answer all."

Lauren D. (MA-2047)

Jennifer E. (MA-2249)

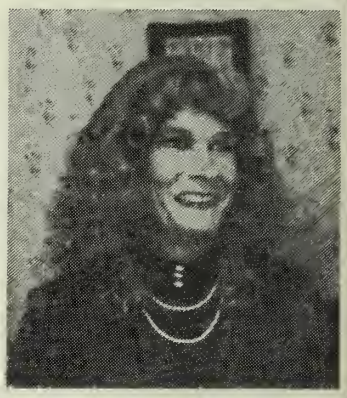
JENNIFER EDWARDS (SE MA) (#59)

Member: IFGE.

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Paradise in Poconos, IFGE Convention.

In 60's, 5'10", 150, size 16. Interested in sewing, writing both fiction and nonfiction, photography, computers, sailing, gardening, and wines. "Eager to write to and meet others of all interests. Would like to form Cape Cod area group."

Jennifer E. (MA-2249)



Holly D. (MA-2442)

HOLLY D. (E MA) (#56)

Married, 41, 6'2", 200, lifelong TV. Avid reader and soon to be published writer of TV fantasies. "Would really like to express my femininity more but need encouragement of others who have been there. Eventual goal to meet other TV's and join a TV group. Would love to correspond with others willing to share a little bit of themselves."

Holly D. (MA-2442)

ERIN ANNE O. (E. MA) (#57)

SWM TV, 23, 5'9", 165. Loves alternative music, friends, and all aspects of femininity, especially dressing. "Would like to correspond with other TV/TS's. Send photos if possible. Discretion assured & required. Need help dressing."

Erin O. (MA-2094)

BOBBIE DAVIES (W MA) (#58)

MWM, 42, hetero. Interests: Tennis, martial arts, anything feminine. "Hi! My name is Bobbie. I've been a TV as long as I can remember. Love lingerie, negligees, and being a woman. I wear bra and panties every day, and soft silky negligees to bed at night. My wife

knows, does not understand, but accepts me as I am. Need to be a woman. Need a pen pal for girl talk. Write soon."

Bobbie Davies, P.O.Box 1518, Pittsfield, MA 01201 (MA-2238)

Shelley A. (MA-2463)

SHELLEY ANDERSON (W MA) (#56)

Member: TGIC

Participant: 'Be All'

5'10", 36, 150, size 12. Interested in fashion, cooking, baseball & letting my feminine self blossom. Enjoy lingerie, quiet talk, & relaxing with like minded people. TV with strong TS desires. "Would like to meet TV's, TS's, and GG's. Travel to Albany and Worcester. Phone & photo, please!"

Shelly Anderson, P.O. Box 4583, Springfield, MA 01101 (MA-2463)

Rese C. (MA-2615)

RISE CARMEN (NE MA) (#57)

MWM, Bi, closet TV, 6', dark brown hair and eyes. Loves femme clothes and dressing. "Would like to meet other Bi TV's in the NE MA, southern NH, and southern ME areas."

Boxholder, P.O. Box 13, Essex, MA 01929 (MA-2615)

SYLVIA MARCI D. (W MA) (#56)

Older MWM TV, 5'6", 170. "Interested in fetish items for many years; newly into full TV closet activity and would like to share thoughts on this area. Would be happy to swap or share collections of self video on high heels and/or fashion belts. Also have interest in area of forced cross-dressing and bondage."

Sylvia D. (MA-2430)

BOBBIE M. (E MA) (#56)

DWM, 5'5", 165, 35. Enjoys sports, soft rock, cooking, fishing, and nature in general. Also enjoys intelligent, caring, and understanding people. "Still in the closet. Been Cding since a young age. Enjoy lingerie and stylish, soft feminine clothing. Looking to meet understanding women and couples to help me."

Bobbie M. (MA-2478)

Karen F. (MA-2725)

KAREN F. (E MA) (#57)

Member: Tiffany Club of NE

MWM, TV, 40, 6', 200, grey hair and blue eyes, size 20. "I am in recreation, like travel, computers, photography, art, music, people. Barely out of the closet, love to dress in lingerie, lace, and petticoats. Need help from sisters to pass in public. Dressing makes me feel content, expressive of my inner self, and pretty. Seek correspondence and photos. Please write."

Karen F. (MA-2725)

Karen M. MA-2822)

KAREN M. (NE MA) (#57)

WM TV, 35, 6'1", 1, blonde, blue eyes. "Crossdressing for many years, but still in the closet. I love the feeling of becoming a beautiful woman. Especially love nylons and lingerie. Told that I am very passable, but lack confidence to go out alone. Would like to meet other CD's in greater Boston area. I am very discrete. Will respond to all sincere letters with photo."

Karen M. (MA-2822)

JENNIFER M. (SE MA) (#56)

MWM, 33, 5'10", 185, size 18, brown hair, brown eyes, very outgoing person, cross-dressing since age 5. Interested in would like to meet or correspond with others. Enjoy dressing, lingerie, nylons, make up and heels. "Still in closet, but getting ready, must be discreet."

Jennifer M. (MA-2585)

DOMINIQUE BROWN (N MA) (#57)

Member: TCNE

Participant: 'Coming Together'

MWM, hetero, CD, 38, 5'10", 195, dresses conservatively. Wife trying to cope with CD activities but does not participate. Interested in defining and refining Dominique and to offer and receive support. "Want to form support group in E Canada. Interested in hearing from all, especially attendees of IFGE Convention in Boston for a reunion."

Dominique Brown (MA-2650)

Stephanie P. (MA-3031)

STEPHANIE PETERS (MA) (#58)

33, 5'4", married to supportive wife. Interested in meeting others who share my lifelong fascination with successful transformation of males into beautiful females. "Would like to correspond and exchange photos with passable CD's, TV's, and TS's."

Stephanie P. (MA-3031)

S.P. GILGUT (N MA) (#56)

Member: XX Club, Tiffany

DW M-F TS. Interested in studying classical organ, photography, reading and model railroading - computers too! "Looking to get together with new friends in my area, or exchanging mail/Email via WIZUAX! Stephie @ Samsung.Com."

Stephie G. (MA-2657)

ROBYN D. (E MA) (#56)

Interested in sailing, hang gliding, basketball, music. "I recently began to face this special part of me. I am interested to hear from both men who cross-dress and women who have been married to, are married to, or dating men who cross-dress. Since I have just lost a two-year relationship when my mate discovered my interest, I need to get a better understanding of what I will face when I meet someone else. How do I tell them?"

Robyn D. (MA-2663)

MARIE ALLEN (E MA) (#56)

Member: Now applying to TCNE.

5'10", 200 lbs. and dieting. "I think I look much younger than my age (58) dressed." Interests: (male): golf, bridge years ago. (female): very much into pure silk - lingerie, and also dresses, skirts and blouses. Bought sewing machine, and am beginning to design and sew silk lingerie for myself.

Marie Allen (MA-2729)

DIANE C. (E MA) (#57)

45 year old, happily married heterosexual crossdresser, Ph.D., educated, executive. Wife tolerates crossdressing, but not in her presence. "Have always dressed in private, but would now like to meet someone to dress with as a prelude to attending a CD convention or weekend. I emulate socialites, my feminine role models, in my interests (fashion and the arts). Avidly seeking correspondence."

Diane C. (MA-2751)

LISA STEPHANIE ALLEN (E MA) (#57)

SWM, 30, 6',175.

Interested in dressing up, fishing, camping, running, reading. "I am trying to come out of the closet. Would like to meet others doing the same. Looking for a roommate to share an apartment in Norwood area. Currently living with parents (you know how that can be!!!) Please drop a line for friendly chat."

Lisa Stephanie A. (MA-2810)

Christine K. (MA-3044)

CHRISTINE K. (E MA) (#58)

Member: TCNE, Tri-Ess

Participant: TCNE P-town Outing

Bi CD would like to meet interesting, creative people in E MA. I am a computer programmer, musician, artist, peace activist and vegetarian Buddhist. My interests include history, politics, philosophy, photography, and art films. I spend summers in Provincetown duing volunteer AIDS work and stdying the Trot. I enjoy going out dressed, and dancing, especially with sensitive attractive men.

Christine K. (MA-3044)

JOAN R. (E MA) (#58)

35, 6', mostly hetero, somewhat passable. "Enjoy escaping from the stresses of profession by dining and clubbing at nice places. Undergoing experiential learning explosion after all these years of repression. Loving wife struggling to understand, but supportive. Remembering the anguish before discovering IFGE, Tapestry, TCNE, etc., I would like to help."

Joan R. (MA-2841)

ROBIN W. (SE MA) (#57)

"Seeking guidance and perfection for transformation. Interested in exotic lingerie, religious origins, sexual diversity, sling, magick, pursuit of wealth. Would like to establish support group on Martha's Vineyard. Would like to hear from anyone. Wife has knowledge, understanding, and helps. Coming out of my closet and need to be with others similar to myself. I am a secretive and private person, trustworthy and discreet."

Robin W. (MA-2845)

SUZANNE H. (NW MA) (#58)

43, trim, 156. Interested in jogging, shopping. "I love modeling evening gowns. I am looking for a friend to help bring out the best of both of us. Can travel to meet new friends. I am still in the closet and would like to share my

first evening out with a friend. Have been dressing for years."

Suzanne H., P.O. Box 209, Pinehurst, MA 01866 (MA-2866)

DANIEL L. (E MA) (#58)

Masculine white male, 37, 6', 195, brown hair, brown eyes. Airline employee, recreational traveler. "I am interested in corresponding with, and meeting pretty, petite, together TV's or pre-op TS's in Boston, Chicago, D.C., and other major North American cities, for a lady companion, tour guide. I enjoy nightlife, dinner, dancing, and intimate evenings together."

Daniel L. (MA-2924)

Sharon L. (MA-3122)

SHARON LOVELY (MA) (#59)

Member: Tiffany Club of New England.

5'6", medium build, blue eyes, black hair, 29, WM, biTV. Interested in dressing, fishing, and shopping. "I would like to have a sisterly relationship with a TV my age. Will correspond with TV's too far away to meet."

Sharon Lovely, P O Box 235, Worcester MA 01613 (MA-3122)

TRACI S. (MA) (#58)

DWM, TV with TS tendencies, 29, 5'3", 125 (petite), brown hair, hazel eyes. Interested in travel, music, cooking, skiing, shopping, and socializing. "This is my first ad, as I have just discovered Tapestry and realize I'm not alone. I recently took my first trip out of my 'closet' and loved it! I pass very well, but want to meet others in the region to socialize with. Please write me!"

Traci S., Box 143, Medway, MA 02053 (MA-2942)

GEORGIA A. (MA) (#58)

Bi, W, married, novice TV, 5'11", 190 and losing. Interested in camping, bowling, writing, movies, auto rallies, astronomy, new age music, and making new friends. "Would like to meet people in New England. My wife is not understanding, so I must be discreet. Need help in learning how to become a woman. All letters will be answered."

Georgia A. (MA-3074)

RHODE ISLAND (027- 029-)

BARBARA ALEXANDRE (RI) (#57)

Member: TCNE

DBiW TV. "Would enjoy exchange of letters, photos/tapes with other TV's in R.I./So. Mass. area. I present a passible figure. Mid-40's and in shape. I like sun bathing, dancing, evenings out, especially in Cape Cod area during summer. Drinking and smoking OK. I particularly enjoy dressing up for all those who appreciate 'complete transformation' en femme, photo sessions and ?! SASE gets photo and reply."

Barbara A. (RI-0313)

Janine D. (RI-0331)

JANINE BRIDGET D. (RI) (#56)

5'9", 140, 30's, auburn hair, blue eyes. Enjoys computers, photography, needle point, gourmet cooking. "Interested in meeting individuals who can help me advance in achieving greater understanding of my feminine self."

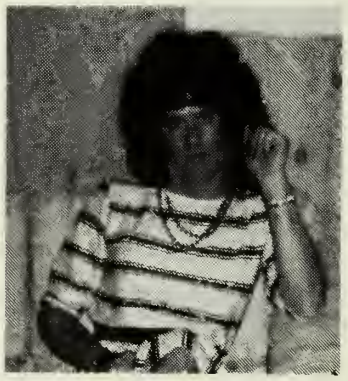
Jan D., P.O. Box 562, Coventry, RI 02816 (RI-0331)

Andrea K. (RI-1771)

ANDREA K. (RI) (#56)

5'10", 155, brown eyes, long brown hair, semi-androgynized. Interested in Sci-fi, investing, metaphysics, dressing up full time like a woman, movies, video. "I am willing to meet other TV/CD/TS's and talk about things like lingerie, high heels, hosiery, makeup, and becoming a full time woman, to be known as a woman, and treated as one."

Andrea K. (RI-1771)



Charly O. (RI-2157)

CHARLY OLSON (RI) (#58)

Member: Rhode Island Society

6', 175. Interests: Fishing, boating, and of course spending as much time as possible as Charly. "Interested in meeting others in the local area and hoping to help organize a local support group. Love to exchange photos and make new friends. I've been 29 years old for the last 11 years!"

Charly Olson, P.O. Box 1140, Coventry, RI 02816 (RI-2157)

Gwendolyn S. (RI-2207)

GWENDOLYN ALYNNA SPENCER (RI) (#56)

Participant: 'Coming Together'

5'9", brown hair, blue eyes, volunteer at IFGE office. Hobbies include reading, history, sailing, dancing, camping, and martial arts. "I like long walks on the seashore and in the woods. Interested in contacting other Wiccans. Also starting a support group in RI."

Gwendolyn Spencer, P.O. Box 3453, Newport, RI 02840 (RI-2207)

Stephanie S. (RI-2693)

STEPHANIE S. (RI) (#57)

MWM, TV, 5'11", 180, 33, professional. Compassionate wife trying to understand. Coming out of closet. Probably passable. Interested in History, reading, motorcycles, running, computers, shopping for feminine attire and dressing en femme. "Interested in corresponding. Particularly in need of contact with those who have been able to overcome their guilt. We want to write and meet couples working on CD issues. We are slow but consistent correspondents!"

Stephanie S. (RI-2693)

NEW HAMPSHIRE (030- 038-)

ANDREA L. (S NH) (#58)

SWM, 25, 5'9", 155. Interested in science, movies, shopping, jogging, bicycling. "Recently moved to the Nashua area and would like some friends for mutual support and excursions into the real world. My girlfriend accepts who I am but does not want to go out with me because of possible repercussions. Would also like to hear from couples who could help my girlfriend understand and cope better."

Andrea L. (NH-1210)

JODI B. (NH) (#59)

WM TV, 30's, 6', 200. Interested in athletics, linguistics, beekeeping, running, ephemera, gadgetry, and history. "Adventurous, curious, open-minded individual new to area seeks contacts with people in our unique community who have humor, compassion, and discretion."

Jodi B. (NH-1457)

Dawn A. (NH-2206)

DAWN A. (NH) (#61)

MWM, 6', 195, 59, pre-op TS. "I have not started to dress full time yet but am doing well on electrolysis and hormones. I enjoy shopping, walking, 50's music and good company. I will answer all letters."

Dawn A. (NH-2206)

Alison H. (NH-2490)

ALISON H. (NH) (#56)

Member: TCNE

Participant: Coming Together '90

Awards: "Miss Cinderella", Fantasia Fair, '90

Single, 5'9", 140, 41, trim and fit, and passable. Quiet, sensitive, articulate, excited about exploring my female self. Interested in personal growth, wholistic lifestyle. "I'm an aerobatics pilot, artist, software engineer, and writer. I enjoy meeting intelligent, articulate, sensitive people, and have made many new friends through my gender exploration."

Alison H. (NH-2490)

DIANE O. (NH) (#58)

White male TV, 5'6", blue eyes, brown hair. Interested in everything from a to z. "Looking for a TV, TS, or GG who would like to help me finally to get out and do things. I am in need of a friend. Please send photo and phone. Will answer all."

Diane O. (NH-1476)

CLAIRE DANIELLE (NH) (#58)

DWM, 5'8", 135, brown hair/eyes, size 9. "Slowly attempting to live as I feel most comfortable. Seek honest help and support."

Bobby, P.O. Box 478, Wilton, NH 03086 (NH-2188)

Beverly R. (NH-2858)

BEVERLY ROSS (NH) (#60)

SWM, 5'9",215 (and losing), late 30's, TV. Interested in music, movies, cooking, weekend get-aways. "I've been crossdressing since age 12. I'm still in the closet and am looking to build relationships to help me come out and be me. Intelligent, articulate, and discreet. I'm very sentimental, realistic, and compassionate. Hope some day to attend P-town."

Beverly R. (NH-2858)

MAINE (038- 047-)

Wendi K. (ME-2034)

WENDI LYNN KAISER (S ME) (#58)

Member: Transsupport

Participant: Fantasia Fair '89,'90, Coming Together '90

Single, post-op TS, 5'7". Enjoys walking, cooking, music, shopping, reading. "I have been wrestling with reality for most of my life. I am pleased to say that I have won."

Wendi Kaiser, P.O. Box 67, S. Berwick, ME 03908 (ME-2034)

DIANE L. (ME) (#60)

MM, TV, 30, 6'2", couldn't pass on a bet, supportive wife. Interested in theater, reading (Heinlein, Baum, Clancy, Hooker), Trivial Pursuit and a good pizza. "I am just now beginning to accept the feminine side of myself, and I'm still scared. I would like to correspond, with the goal of meeting others who could help me accept myself as I feel I am. I would like to join a group, but don't know how to go about it. Thank you."

Diane L. (ME-2815)

FREDA F. (ME) (#58)

TV, 5'8", 180, 47. "Understanding wife. Second marriage. Would like to heat from and meet others in the northeast. I travel throughout the northeast."

Freda F. (ME-2985)

Debbie P. (ME-2763)

DEBBIE PURRINGTON (S ME) (#57)

31, 5'11". Enjoys good conversation, dining out, travel, movies, reading, dressing. "Would really like hearing from people who would enjoy having a new friend. Interested in both written correspondence and meeting new people. Willing to help new sisters with makeup or going out for their first night on the town. Will answer all who write."

Debbie P. (ME-2763)

LYNDA ANNE V. (ME) (#58)

Member: TransSupport.

MWM, TS, 5'9", 50's, fair, blue eyes. Interested in writing, classical music, singing, acoustic guitar, Romantic novels, and being feminine. "Have crossdressed since early age, often in public in last ten years. Passable, but family situation and small town location prevent my going out locally. Seeking TV/TS girlfriends, mid-coast area or lower ME to correspond or dress."

Lynda Anne V. (ME-3007)

VERMONT (050- 059-)

Helene H. (VT-2021)

HELENE H. (VT) (#58)

Participant: Tiffany P-town Outing, Tiffany Winter Outing, Poconos Weekend, Texas T-party.

"I am enjoying my female self no end, and getting better at it all the time. Out of the closet regularly. Kids and young girls read me but who cares? I'd like to hear from others and try to be helpful as much as I can. I answer all mail promptly."

Helene H. (VT-2021)

Phyllis C. (VT-2205)

PHYLLIS C. (VT) (#57)

MWM, 50, 6', 180. "I would like to meet and correspond with TV's from Vermont. Interested in dressing with like-minded sisters. Will answer all mail ASAP."

Phyllis C. (VT-2205)

CONNECTICUT (060- 069-)

Carla G. (CT-0212)

CARLA GOLDSNIDER (CT) (#57)

SWM, hetero TV, 5'10". "Love to cross-dress. Would like to meet couples and females for girl talk and friendships. I live alone in a small house in the country."

Carla G. (CT-0212)

RENEE CARROLL (CT) (#56)

Member: NWGA, Crossroads

SWM hetero TV, 40+, 6'+. Interests range from American history to the causes of transgenderism. Other pursuits include cooking, travel, outdoors, photography.

Renee C. (CT-0292)

ANDREA G. (CT) (#56)

Married, 5149, 5'11, 170. Interested in sports, good food, reading. "I would like to develop some friendships in the crossdressing community, and welcome correspondence."

Andrea G. (CT-0425)

DARLENE S. ROSS (CT) (#59)

MWM hetero closet TV, 5'8", 165, 50's (appears younger), retired, gentle, sincere. Enjoys dressing & being feminine, loves heels, shoes, lingerie, jewelry. Wife not supportive, but aware. Interested in sports, music, reading & travel. "Not passable. Like to correspond with all. (Photo preferred.) Especially those in NE. Meet for friendship, support and sharing."

Darlene S. Ross, 167 Cherry St, Suite 114, Milford, CT 06460 (CT-0838)

Susan M. (CT-1463)

SUSAN MACDONALD (CT) (#58

Member: CGS & COS.

6'1 3/4" 155, 45, M-F TS. Interested in tracker action pipe organs, model railroading, cats, the outdoors, and cool forests. Especially like to go out to concerts and recitals. "Have found one of the greatest satisfactions to be helping others in their quest for gender congruence. Would love to hear from both novice and advanced TV's and TS's. GG's welcome too."

Susan M. (CT-1463)

Michelle K. (CT-1490)

MICHELLE KAY (CT) (#63)

Married, hetero, 5'10", blue eyes, light brown hair, late 40's.

"Quiet and sincere. Enjoy cross country skiing, music, theater, and travel. Looking for honest, caring, helpful crossdressers."

Michelle Kay, P O Box 679, Avon, CT 06001 (CT-1490)

DAWN H. (CT) (#57)

DWM, 44, 5'9", 150, TS oriented. Enjoy camping, water skiing, 50's and 60's music, cars, and of course, learning to be the woman I want to be. "Interested in understanding and getting a handle on my feminine side. Want to hear from people in SE CT and RI, whom I can possibly help, and who can help me. Will answer all serious letters."

Dawn H. (CT-0858)

SAL CARBONE (CT) (#58)

Member: ETVC

Retired life-long TV with understanding wife. "Would enjoy hearing how others started

dressing and what they do now."

Sal Carbone, P.O. Box 8150, Manchester, CT 06040 (CT-1272)

Diane M. (CT-1812)

DIANE MAYNARD (CT) (#57)

Member: Connecticut View

DWM TV, 48, 5'6", 145. "Have been crossdressing for 40 yrs. I live by myself and enjoy going to parties dressed. Am looking for correspondence and companionship."

R. G. Maynard, P.O. Box 169, Somersville, CT 06072 (CT-1812)

Ramona G. (CT-1948)

RAMONA G. (S CT) (#57)

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Coming Together, P-town Outing.

62, 5'11", 180, MWM Hetero TV. "Love to meet or write others. Enjoy oil painting, shopping, and dressing. Like to go to outings to be a lady. Wife understands, and helps in shopping, etc. Oldest daughter understs and helps. I enjoy being able to talk to them about feminine subjects."

Ramona G., P.O. Box 171, Montville, CT 06353 (CT-1948)

KATIE S. (CT) (#56)

Bi TV/TS, 36, 5'10", 150. Very attractive, friendly, sensual, basically passable; Hormones 1+ years, smoker (but respectful).

"Would love to meet someone who: Works in a deli, drives a Toyota, stays up late, can't drink, plays guitar (or whatever) in off the wall manner, is happier being her own woman, and who wouldn't mind sharing over, say . . . sushi on a saturday night? (You could always order chicken.) P.S., I can travel."

Katie S. (CT-1888)

RACHEL F. BOYCE (CT) (#56)

Member: Tiffany Club, CT Outreach Society

Participant: Tiffany's P-town Outing, Fantasia Fair

Accountant, 43, married, wife knows & supports. Sons, 22 & 19.

Interested in life, music, dancing, dining out, shopping dressed. "Love to meet TV/TS's. Like educating the public when out. Have become much more aware of my own being in the past 3 years with the friends I have made through Tapestry."

Ms Rachel F. Boyce, P.O. Box 985, Windsor, CT 06095 (CT-1903)

Gayle S. (CT-2493)

GAYLE S. (W CT) (#56)

SM TV, 5'10", 22, attractive. Envies anyone in a short skirt & hose. Interested in becoming a more attractive lady & meeting nice people to share dressing times. "Wish to be involved with groups in the near future. Have been out in public often and really enjoy myself. This is my first ad, and I'm looking forward to meeting all who love the feeling of hose, heels, skirts, etc. as I do."

Gayle S. (CT-2493)

DORA SECRET (N CT) (#56)

Member: C.O.S.

5'10", brown hair and eyes, 150, slim, 25. Interests besides crossdressing include: photography, dancing, 50's - 60's music. "I'm interested in meeting TV's or TS's to get together with and talk to, or who can help me improve my femme side and encourage me to make that first step outside. I also wish to escort TV's or TS's out for dinner or for drinks. Please send photo."

Franco, P.O. Box 290375, Wethersfield, CT 06129-0375 (CT-2731)

DIANE D. (CT) (#58)

Member: COS

S/W/M TV. Size 18 ultra tall. Age 36. Interested in golf, skiing, six years 12 step experience. "New to scene. Complete transformation only recently. CD off and on for many years. Have a long way to go. Looking forward to the journey and some friends to share it with. Discrete. Will answer all ASAP with photo, phone, and note."

Diane D. (CT-2962)

NEW JERSEY (070- 088-)

JANE PEABODY (S NJ) (#56)

Member: Outreach Institute, Renaissance

Participant: DREAM, Fantasia Fair, Coming Together

Tall, reddish blonde. Enjoys high heels, classical music, theater, and travel. Likes to participate in real-world activities.

Jane P. (NJ-0242)

SUZIE M. (N NJ) (#60)

MWM, late 40's, Bi-TV, 6'1", loves lingerie, nylons, and high heels. "Have been dressing all my life. Would like to meet other bi sisters to share fantasies."

Suzie M. (NJ-0686)

PRISCILLA K. (NJ) (#56)

34, married to "non-enthusiastic" wife, healthy, sensitive, caring, articulate, imaginative, discrete. Interested in submissive crossdressing, female supremacy, maid's uniforms, aprons, petticoats, and pinafores. "Want to write others to exchange submissive TV ideas. Still deeply 'closeted' and somewhat shy, but willing to peek out for correspondence only."

Priscilla K. (NJ-1706)

Elena L. ((NJ-1200)

ELENA LEWIS (NJ) (#57)

Member: Girls Night Out

Single TV, trim and petite. Intelligent, sensitive. "Weekends are my special time. Active in NYCTG community. Seek friendship/relationship with mature man, based on dignity, respect, and shared values. Encourage others to write. Perhaps we could double date?"

Elena Lewis, P O Box 4805, Clifton, NJ 07015 (NJ-1200)

Katherine H. (NJ-2073)

KATHERINE H. (N NJ) (#57)

Member: TGIC

Participant: Fantasia Fair, IFGE Convention, 'Be All', 'Coming Out,' Spring Fling.

6', brown hair, pre-op TS. Loves music, humor, corresponding, and helping others. Do stand-up comedy, Broadway poetry, and all things feminine. Rap group moderator. Love to travel (by car), love housework, gardening, talking, and answering letters.

Katherine H. (NJ-2073)

LISA MARTIN (N NJ) (#57)

"I am a MWM, 6'1", 175 lb. CD who loves feminine things, especially high heels. Just recently, I've fully accepted my feminine side, and freed myself of guilty feelings. I'm anxious to develop some friendships for correspondence and occasional get-togethers, through which we can explore our feminine natures and dressing techniques. Some of my other interests include running, tennis, dancing, and the beach."

Lisa M. (NJ-1853)

ARLETTE W. (NJ) (#57)

SWM, TV, 5'6", 38, slim, passable. Sincere, mature, and discreet. Feminine and affectionate. "Enjoy dating guys, but like going out with other girls more. Enjoy entertaining at home, and visiting. My philosophy is, 'Don't just dream about it - do it!' If you're from NJ or nearby, let's get together, and have some fun (phone number, please). Also, I have a spare room in my house - will consider suitable roommate."

Arlette W., Box 225, Holmdel, NJ 07733 (NJ-1894)

Dharon D. (NJ-2342)

SHARON DAVIDSON (N NJ) (#59)

Member: the Gathering.

46, pre-op TS, married, wife very accepting. Nine-year-old son loves Sharon. Interested in family and drum and bugle corps. "Starting therapy and hormones soon. Would like to meet and write to other TS's, particularly in Northern NJ. Will help all I can. Live mostly as Sharon."

Sharon D. (NJ-2342)

Terry M. (NJ-2400)

TERRY M. (S NJ) (#59)

Member: Renaissance

Participant: Poconos Weekend, Paradise in the Poconos

Single male CD, 37, 5'8", brown eyes & hair. "Very grateful to be out of the closet. I have enjoyed much growth and self-acceptance through interaction and sharing with other gender people."

Terry M. (NJ-2400)

CHRISTINE M. (N NJ) (#56)

SWM, 39, 5'11", 140, life-long CD, sensitive, gentle, caring.

Interested in high end audio, sports, and everything feminine. "I cherish my female side and TAPESTRY has helped me to understand and love the 'girl within.' Will correspond with sister to make new friends. Still in the closet, need to be pushed to a meeting."

Christine M. (NJ-1933)

Gloria R. (NJ-2699)

GLORIA R. (NJ) (#56)

Member: NYGA

Single male, 5'7", 145, mid-40's. "Lifelong CD interested in meeting/corresponding all interested parties. Sincerity a must! Your photo gets mine."

G. Reah, P O Box 6904, Piscataway, NJ 08855 (NJ-2699)

Anne C. (NJ-2797)

ANNE CONNOLLY (NJ) (#57)

Member: Chi Delta Mu of Tri-Ess.

Lifelong, hetero TV, 40's, 5'11", 148, recently widowed, single parent. Interested in poetry, dreams, the dance of intimacy, baseball, board games, military history, and religious thought. "Love the lush, crisp feeling of feminine immersion. Seeking sympathetic M's or F's to share relaxed conversation, thoughtful correspondence, sociable company at home or in public. Admire humor, nerve, style. Will answer all."

Anne Connolly, P O Box 51, Convent Station, NJ 07961 (NJ-2797)

GINA R. (NJ) (#58)

Member: IFGE

MWM, hetero, TV, 38, 5'11", 210 (and dieting). Interested in cooking, literature, all films, and TV/TS fiction. "Enjoy corresponding with fellow TV's and TS's. Wife knows, but is not very supportive. We all must bloom where we are planted, however. Love complete transformation, and seek a gentle, earthy, feminine look. Will answer all."

Gina R. (NJ-2278)

DEE J. (NJ) (#61)

Member: TGIC

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Poconos Weekend

SWM, TS, 6'0", 47, 170, educated, friend of Bill W. 8 years. Interested in photography, going out, dancing, video, stock cars. "Dressing since teens. Stopped many times. Have wardrobe, dress almost daily. Wish to meet TV/TS's, and those who care about us."

Dee J. (NJ-2337)

ELISE P. (NJ) (#59)

SWM, 31. "Shy, scared, but taking my first steps out of my cocoon. I would love to hear from anyone who has the desire, and patience to help Elise to fully emerge. My other interests include Medieval art and culture, Fellini films, sci-fi fantasy books, and the ballet. Will reply to all."

Elise P. (NJ-2391)

Joanne W. (NJ-2944)

JOANNE MICHELLE W. (NJ) (#57)

Member: IFGE, Tri-Ess.

Bi SWM, TV, 35, 6'3", 220. Brown hair and eyes. Pass well. Open-minded, sincere. Interested in photography, writing, everything femenine, horror movies, and shopping. "Would like to correspond/meet other TV's, TS's so I can be the lady I am. Like to hear from members of the transgendered community. Seek to come out. Will answer all. Photo would help. Willing to exchange dreams and fantasies."

Joanne W. (NJ-2944)

KATHI LEIGH H. (NJ) (#58)

SWM, 39, 5'11", 175, brown hair, blue eyes, considered cute by friends. Interested in fishing, photography, new age music, nature walks, biking, and quiet evenings at home. "Mostly in the closet CD. Do go out once in awhile at night, dressed, to mail a letter. Wish to meet or hear from TV/TS or GG to help maximise my strong feminine desires and fantasies. Shy and easy to get along with. Looking for sisters that are sincere and like to help others."

Kathi Leigh H. (NJ-3024)

CAROLINE G. (NJ) (#58)

Member of Tri-Ess.

6'3", 220, 22T, MWM, wife slightly less than indifferent. Interested in cross-dressing, my business, and aviation. "My closet is driving me insane. Need and seek contact with TV, CD, TS in Bergen County, NJ. Would like to spend at least one day in the sun in a skirt and heels. Discretion an absolute must."

Caroline G. (NJ-3070)

NAT P. (NJ) (#58)

Member: IFGE.

F-M TS, first operation completed. Short, stocky, educated, oriented to other men, only. "I seek a fully loving and loyal mate. A non-smoker and non-drinker, I need a life-time mate. I'm in my early fifties and live a very quiet (and, right now, solitary) life."

Nat P. (NJ-3120)

Jodie H. (NJ-3136)

JODIE H. (NJ) (#59)

Member of IFGE.

SWM, hetero, late thirties, 5'10", 155, 10-12. Interested in love jazz, old movies, cars, stereos, dining out. "I've been crossdressing my whole life. Still in the closet, but wish to become passable in public. Would love to meet other TV/TS for friendship and get-togethers in NJ-NYC area. Will write or phone all who respond promptly."

Jodie H. (NJ-3136)

NEW YORK (090- 149-)

Winnie B. (NY-0228)

WINNIE BRANT (N NY) (#59)

Member: Tiffany, Tri-Ess, TGIC

Awards: Miss Fantasia Fair

Hetero TV, 50+, 6'2". A lady. Has many interests. Scientifically and culturally oriented. Loves to travel.

Mr. W. Brant, Box 741, Schenectady, NY 12301 (NY-0228)

Connie T. (NY-0434)

CONNIE TAYLOR (W NY) (#56)

MWM, elderly, hetero TV, 5'5", 125, with supportive wife. Likes clean-cut clothes and tall heels. Loves to correspond. All letters promptly answered.

Connie Taylor, Box 0734, Jamestown, NY 14702 (NY-0434)

Angela S. (NY-0719)

ANGELA S. (W NY) (#56)

Member: EON, TVA

Participant: Tiffany Couples' Weekend, Joyce Dewhurst Poconos Outings, Coming Together

Awards: EON Pioneer Award

5'10", 190, brown hair, blue eyes, 40's. Baby-boomer. "Enjoy being a complete person. Sometimes passable, other times - who cares! Very active in W NY. Founder of EON."

Angela S. (NY-0719)

RENEE' SLOCUM (W NY) (#57)

Member: CD-Network

5'11", 160, hetero SWM. Educated, shy, good sense of humor. Early 30's. Interests are photography, ballet, antiques, music.

"Would like to hear from, and possibly meet with other CD's in the Geneva and Finger Lakes area. Maybe we can form a small support group. Been a CD for 20 years."

Renee' Slocum, Box 977, Geneva, NY 14456 (NY-0651)

LYNDA D. (NY) (#56)

MWM TV, 37. "Interested in writing to and meeting with others who are interested in crossdressing. Looking for someone who could help me with same."

Lynda D. (NY-0775)

Delores M. (NY-0808)

DELORES MERHIGE (SE NY) (#57)

Member: Chi Delta Mu (past president), LIFE, Serenity, IFGE

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Poconos W/E (1st runner-up, Miss Poconos), 'Coming Together', IFGE Convention.

Married, middle-aged, 5'10", medium build, engineer, life long TV. Wife quite supportive. "I love the fun part of the scene, and derive a lot of pleasure from it. Will write as often as I can."

D. Merhige, P.O. Box 327, Massapequa Park, NY 11762 (NY-0808)

Josephine C. (NY-0880)

JOSEPHINE C. (SE NY) (#57)

Member: Tiffany, Tri-Ess, ABC, CDM/NY

Participant: Principal events in US and Europe.

Hetero, married, middle-aged, 5'10", engineer. "Very long life as a TV. Love shopping and going out for dinner, gardening, cooking, photography, and housekeeping. Travel a lot, and enjoy meeting others. Will reply to all mail, and would like to exchange photos. Looking for company to go out en femme with."

J. Chara (NY-0880)

RICKY HUNT (W NY) (#57)

Member: Tri-Ess

6'1", 250, married, two kids, all know and accept. Interested in computers, photography, sci-fi, folk music, and writing. "As with most things, I am an oddball, even among my sisters. Writing as 'The Bearded Lady,' I concentrate on the humorous side of our hobby. Although an irregular letter-writer, I always answer, and enjoy hearing from anyone."

Ricky H., Box 10003, Brighton, NY 14610 (NY-1044)

ULIE ANN C. (N NY) (#59)

Member: IFGE, TGIC.

Attended: Fantasia Fair '78, '88, '89, '90.

Hetero TV, 52, 5'9". Interested in family, hiking, camping,, science fiction.

Julie Ann C. (NY-1695)

Joanna P. (NY-0973)

JOANNA PAULINE (W NY) (#56)

Member: Rochester CD-Network, Tri-Ess.

Hetero TV, born 1948, married 1972, 2 children, engineer. Interested in photography, cinema, home video, gardening, swimming. "CD since the age 12. Married '72, told wife '86. She has grown more tolerant, but doesn't want to see me as Jodie. Daughters 14 and 8. Older knows and accepts. Am membership coordinator of the Rochester CD-Network, a local support group for TV's and TS's."

Joanna Pauline, P.O. Box 15731, Rochester, NY 14615, (NY-0973)

Vickie S. (NY-1035)

VICKIE STONE (SE NY) (#56)

Member: LIFE, Chi Delta Mu

Hetero TV, 6', 185, attorney. Hobbies include writing (has published in Femme Mirror & Femanine, editor Lifelines), music (former pro musician - guitar & bass). Still enjoys song-writing. Home recordist, avid photographer. Has darkroom. Avid skier. Seeks fellow TV ski bums to ski NY, MA & VT. Enjoys NYC night clubs. Responds sooner or later. Enjoys helping novices.

Vickie Stone, Box 31, Hempstead, NY 11551 (NY-1035)

STEPHANIE LYNN (N NY) (#56)

Member: Tri-Ess

5'9, 38, 180, dark blond hair, size 16. Interested in talking to a post-op TS and meeting to exchange thoughts. "Enjoy being a girl 95% of the time, but I can't. Stephanie is a fun-loving girl. She has strong TS desires. She would enjoy being escorted out by a sensitive male. She is a conservative dresser, heels, hose, and pretty dresses. Will answer all."

Stephanie Lynn (NY-1744)

Bonnie H. (NY-1186)

BONNIE HOWARD (W NY) (#57)

Member: EON

Participant: TWSG P-town Weekend

42, 5'6", size 12, 135. Interests include sailing, golf, cross-country skiing, music. "Enjoy married life, and a successful career. Bonnie is an important part of both! To share life's experiences with a slightly conservative, but stylish business woman - drop a line."

Bonnie H. (NY-1186)

Jan V. (NY-1187)

JAN ALYCE V. (NYC) (#57)

Member: Tri-Ess

Participant: Poconos Weekend, Tri-Ess Holiday En Femme

Single, 43, 5'11", 195. Interested in opera, classical music, shows, long-distance running. "I enjoy being out as a lady to the opera and museums. Also shopping and nights out at comfortable cabarets and restaurants in Manhattan. Would enjoy sharing experiences."

Jan Alyce V. (NY-1187)

Joan F. (NY-1220)

JOAN FASHIONS (N NY) (#58)

Participant: Tiffany Club Spring Outing, TGIC April Shower Soiree

MWM TV/TG, 50's, retired. "I live mostly as Joan. Travel NYC/NJ area for shopping, socials, etc. Family grown and understanding. Letters with photo will receive prompt response."

Joan Fashions, P.O. Box 1756 S. Rd Annex, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 (NY-1220)

Joanne E. (NY-1224)

JOANNE MARIE E. (NY) (#58)

Member: Tri-Ess

6', 250, 57, married, lifelong CD. Wife knows and is somewhat supportive. "I'm a big girl who loves everything feminine from min-skirts to evening gowns. I enjoy meeting other CD's and corresponding and exchanging photos."

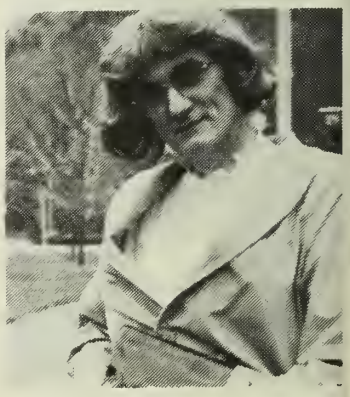
J. Enright, P.O. Box 251, Shrub Oak, NY 10588 (NY-1224)

Gloria F. (NY-1358)

GLORIA F. (N NY) (#56)

SWM, late 50's, 5'8", 155, semi-androgynized GTV, on hormones, quiet, educated, simple tastes. "A lifelong TV, I enjoy all aspects of the feminine lifestyle. Interests include outdoors activities, photography, classical music, opera, homelife, and crossdressing. Live alone, and dress as I wish. Looking for new friends."

G. Fuhrman, P.O. Box 60, North River, NY, 12856 (NY-1358)



Gretchen L. (NY-1359)

GRETCHEN L. (W NY) (#61)

Participant: Fantasia Fair

6'1", blue eyes, 195, good figure. Enjoys bike riding, hiking and crossdressing. "Would like to meet other TV's in the Buffalo NY area.

Would like to have dinner out."

Gretchen L., P.O. Box 231, Celeron, NY 14720 (NY-1359)

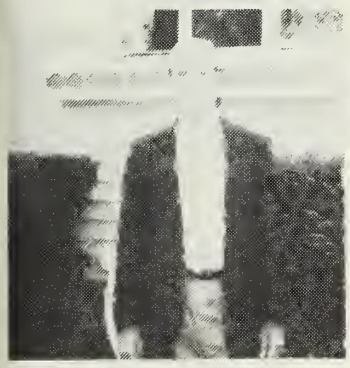
Charliss D. (NY-1856)

CHARLISS D. (W NY) (#56)

Member: Tiffany, EON

Fairly new, attended events in Boston, Albany, Rochester. Single, educated, professional, world traveler. Likes adventure and meeting like-minded people. "Strong feminine nature. 10 yr. 12-stepper. Interested in sharing and intimacy. Enjoy getting together. Respect expressions of individuality. A sharer willing to receive as well as give."

Charliss D. (NY-1856)



Lou B. (NY-1908)

LOU BETCHER (LI NY) (#56)

Bi WM, 46, 6'1", 168, brown/gray hair. "Am interested in meeting TV/TS for get-togethers. Would appreciate a photo and how to contact. Photo will be returned upon request. I'm a little shy and submissive. All letters will be answered."

Lou Betcher, Box 501, Brentwood, NY 11717 (NY-1908)

JMICHELLE M. (SE NY) (#56)

Member: L.I.F.E.

Events: Fantasia Fair '87, '88; Tiffany Spring Outing '88, IFGE Coming Together Convention '88

"Love to go out. Pass easily. Appearance is good, but need work on mannerisms and voice. Developing an integrated, androgenous personality. Love music, skiing, and all things feminine."

Michelle M. (NY-1818)

TERRI SHANNON (W NY) (#56)

SWM pre-op TS, 42, 5'10", usually brown hair. Enjoys motorcycling, camping, photography, modeling, tall males, and M-F couples. Personable, although sometimes shy-to-introspective. "Passable, yet seek new and understanding friends, and couples. Travel NY State and Eastern Ontario, extensively and seek escorts and friends. Love to model my large wardrobe. Will meet New Yorkers and Ontarians who send photo and letter of interests."

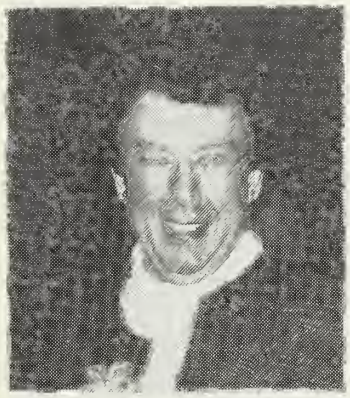
Ms. Teri Shannon, P.O. Box 1091, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 (NY-1906)

Constance L. (NY-1929)

CONSTANCE LEE (W NY) (#57)

MWM, 38. "I just love writing to and hearing from all my sisters, new and old. Anxious to call you 'friend,' and to be known as such."

C. Lee, P.O. Box 368, Derby, NY 14047-0368 (NY-1929)



Victoria N. (NY-1960)

VICTORIA LOUISE NORRELL (SE NY) (#59)

"I am Victoria and I love life. With care and planning I will effect my destiny, helping those that I can along the way. Dress, shop, dine, travel, go to concerts. I enjoy 'tinplate' railroading, and am very much in love with a beautiful woman named Carla. I live by my creed which is, 'I can never be a woman but I will never be anything less than a lady.' Will try to answer all. To all I wish PEACE of mind, of heart, of spirit."

Victoria N. (NY-1960)

LAURA STONE (W NY) (#56)

5'10", 45, 150, TV, hetero. Interests include art, movies, good food and fashion. "Interested in corresponding with other TV's in the Northeast; travel a lot and would like to visit with others when in their location."

Laura Stone, P.O. Box 482, Amherst, NY 14226 (NY-1924)

LEIGH ANNE KOSLEY (E NY) (#57)

41, 6'2", 210, hazel eyes, size 18 dress and size 14 shoe. Active military. Interests include theater, model railroads, music, aerobics, and racketball. "Interested in correspondence with others of the same interest. Would also like to meet a woman who would like to share the same likes and life."

Leigh Anne K. (NY-1971)

CHRISTINA SCHULTZ (LI NY) (#57)

Single, hetero TV. Early thirties, 5'8", 140. Interested in rock and classical music, science fiction, and computers. "Have been dressing since childhood, but still need help working on my feminine image. Looking to make some new friends."

Chris S., Box 233, Lindenhurst, NY 11757 (NY-1981)

Dee Dee S. (NY-2246)

DEE DEE ANN SUMMERS (SE NY) (#59)

Member of L.I.F.E., write for Lifeline newsletter.

5'11", 165, blue eyes, 29, married, heterosexual CD with supportive wife. Enjoy dancing in NYC nightclubs, meeting and helping other CD's. "I've been a cross-dresser as long as I can remember. I came to terms with my feminine self a few years ago, and have been a happier and more complete person ever since. Have met many wonderful people and developed some CD friendships since coming out. It's been a long, hard road, but worth it."

Dee Dee Ann Summers, P O Box 4462, Great Neck NY 11021 (NY-2246)

Marjorie T. (NY-2266)

MARJORIE THOMAS (NYC) (#59)

Member: Chi Delta Mu.

Attended Poconos weekend.

SWM, 36, 5'7", 135. Interested in sports, classic rock, and taping drag on the tube. "I am most comfortable dealing with dual personalities like mine. Would like to correspond and meet with other TV's, and understanding women. Discrete, and do not want to hear from men. Would like to hear from anyone who has appeared in drag on stage and liked it."

Marjorie T. (NY-2266)

LILIAN FRANK (NYC NY) (#59)

Long-time CD, 45. "Would like to meet or correspond with any TV's or TS's (M-F or F-M) who feel there might be a 'spiritual dimension' to their condition."

Lilian F. (NY-2230)

Joanne S. (NY-2375)

JOANNE R. SILVERMAN (SE NY) (#56)

Member: CT Outreach Society

Married (she doesn't know), 50, 5'11", 190, conservative dresser. Advanced degrees. Shuns macho image. Caring, passable. Interested in photography, movies, theater, reading, travel. "I would love to meet new friends in the NYC/Westchester area to share our common femininity. Will respond to all who write. Absolute discretion is promised."

Ms. Joanne R. Silverman, P.O. Box 374, Millwood, NY 10546 (NY-2375)

Jan Marie E. (NY-2443)

JAN MARIE E. (NYC) (#56)

Member: TGIC

Participant: Poconos

Brown hair, blue eyes, 5'6", 160, 33. "I love all things feminine, shopping, dining, sports, and travel. Just coming out. Wife doesn't accept. Life-long TV with TS feelings. Need help with makeup and friends."

Jan Marie E. (NY-2443)

Heidi C. (NY-2522)

HEIDI ANN COBART (N NY) (#56)

Married, 34, transgendered. "Have been dressing all my life. Could not have gotten as far as I have without a lot of supportive counseling, friends, and a loving wife, and most recently an accepting mother-in-law. Am a very feminine dresser, and love to express that part of myself as much as possible. My wife and I are looking forward to hearing from other individuals and married couples who share this."

Heidi Ann C. (NY-2522)

Veronica M. (NY-2482)

VERONICA MARTIN (N NY) (#59)

Member: TGIC

SWM, hetero TV, 5'9", 160. "The ultimate in femininity to me is dressing up in a square dance dress with a very full petticoat and ruffled sissy panties. Want to meet understanding females."

Veronica Martin (NY-2482)

Marsha W. (NY-2491)

MARSHA WINGER (NYC) (#59)

Member: Girl's Night Out, NYC, Tri-Ess.

40, Jewish, married, hetero TV. Interested in reading, especially history, and collecting unusual lamps. "I enjoy cross-dressing very much, but I cannot do it much. My wife knows about it and is absolutely against it. She is from Latin America, and I need a Spanish-speaking wife or friend of a cross-dresser to explain things to her in Spanish."

H. Winston, P O Box 1311 Wall St. Sta., NY, NY 10268-1311 (NY-2491)

JENNIFER B. (LI NY) (#56)

SWM, 41, 5'9", TV. Interested in metaphysics, psychology, reading, fashions. "Shy novice trying to bloom. Love lingerie, corsets, feminine costumes and fantasies. Seek meetings and correspondence with TV's and TS's or anyone with like interests. Live on Long Island."

Jennifer B. (NY-2441)

Janet L. (NY-2539)

JANET LANG (NY) (#56)

Member: IFGE.

SWM, 35, 5'9", 150, 12, non-smoker, feminine TV. Interested in current events, electronics, reading, sewing, malls, TV-TS publications, sexy outfits. "Interested in meeting understanding women in Queens, Long Island area for friendship, fun, girl-talk. Also consider dating sensitive men for a non-sexual, friendly relationship. Just out of the closet. Go out frequently and pass well. Want to share my experiences with others."

Janet Lang (NY-2539)

Victoria W. (NY-2597)

VICTORIA M. WEBER (LI NY) (#56)

Member: formerly of IXE

SWM, 30, hetero. Brown hair, size 16 tall. "Trying to come out of the closet boldly-but only succeeding timidly. Enjoy computers, role-playing games, science fiction (esp. Star-Trek), and all fabulous, fun, frilly, feminine finery! Big fan of Lane Bryant and Lerner catalogs and stores."

V. Weber (NY-2597)

ALEXANDRA McKAY (NYC) (#59)

Member: CT Outreach

41, 6', 245, white. Seeks friends in Staten Island, Elizabeth, Bayonne, NYC, Brooklyn, Queens. Enjoy classical music, war games, science fiction & computers.

Alexandra McKay, P.O. Box 140297, Staten Island, NY 10314 (NY-2466)

MAUREEN K. (C NY) (#56)

Member: EON

Educated, professional, single, middle-age, 6'2", 220. Interested in music, opera, theater - the arts in general, and travel. "Would love to meet others in the area, and on the East coast. Value friendship, honesty, and discretion. Enjoy evening gowns and lovely furs. Furs are my passion."

Maureen K. (NY-2697)

Danielle A. (NY-2695

DANIELLE AZCET (LI NY) (#56)

Thirty-seven year old pre-op M-F TS. "My single solitary existence has had its ups and downs, but I've learned that life is to be lived, not merely existed. I want to live, be happy, and not worry anymore. I am myself now, and better able to interact with others, happy or sad. No one has a right to determine anyone else's existence but their own. My wish is that the omnipotent and the meek both realize this."

D. Azcet (NY-2695)

Sharon S. (NY-2848)

SHARON ANN STUART (E NY) (#57)

Member: TGIC

Participant: Dreams, Texas "T" Party

Awards: Miss Dream Congeniality, 1977

MWM, 6'0", 170, 50, size 14,16, blue eyes, brunette or redhead. "CD since age 4. Virginia Prince let me out of the closet in 1967. Share file of original TV stories. Enjoy dressing and going out. Wife understands and tolerates but participates rarely."

Sharon Ann Stuart, P.O. Box 870, Oneonta, NY, 13820 (NY-2848)

GLORIA F. (LI NY) (#57)

Member: Tri-Ess

60, retired HS teacher, size 22, interested in bridge, opera, ballet, and women's clothing. Wife knows, but objects. "I would especially like to receive letters for my wife Mary, from wives, describing how they felt when they found out about their husbands' crossdressing, and explaining how they adjusted."

Gloria F. (NY-2711)

LYNN K. (NY) (#59)

5'7", 35, 135, TS Interested in photography, sailing, making new friends, reading. "I am a recently emerged TS. I would like to meet other GG's, TV's, or TS's to share ideas on dressing, getting out, shopping. I am developing my female persona toward being a woman 100% of the time. All responses answered."

Lynn K., P.O. Box 1172, Amherst, NY 14226 (NY-2735)

Nancy H. (NY-2851)

NANCY ANN HOWES (W NY) (#57)

Member: Tri-Ess, CD Network, TCNE

MWM, 45, married to a wonderful supportive wife. Have been dressing all my life. Interested in movies, Hollywood, music, sports. "Willing to exchange ideas, experiences, and photos with others who enjoy all that is feminine. Will respond quickly to all that write. No sex letters. Let's talk girl talk!!!!"

Nancy Ann Howes, P.O. Box 16127, Rochester, NY 14616 (NY-2851)

Jill D. (NY-2852)

JILL DIAMOND (LI-NY) (#57)

SWM, 40, 5'7", 140, very passable. "I enjoy quiet evenings by the fire, or out on-the-town. I have aspirations of living full-time as female. I have a very understanding ex-spouse. We've been out of the mainstream for a few years and just now are getting back into the 'flow.' The best of both worlds. Would like to meet and correspond with other TV's/TS's and their 'mates.' Travel extensively."

Jill D. (NY-2852)

CHARLEY R. (E NY) (#57)

Member: TV Entertainers of Albany

5'11", 240, ash blonde, blue eyes, poor, bisexual. Interested in reading, writing, and cable TV. "Love to write letters, and want to make friends. Can't pass in public, too poor for electrolysis. Want to meet others. Am just coming out of the closet."

Charley R. (NY-2773)

FRAN BALLEN (LI NY) (#57)

Member: Eulenspiegel Society

SWM, TV, 5'9", 150, 49. Love to go to discos. History buff. "Like to meet fellow TV's for girl talk and dressing up; would also like advice on improving my femininity. Would enjoy going out with sisters from the NY, CT, NJ, and Long Island area. Very discrete."

Fran B. (NY-2781)

PAIGE K. (W NY) (#57)

Member: Toronto CD Club SWM, 42, 5'10", 155, hetero.

"I love being feminine and out of the closet. Would like to attend parties, club meetings. Interested in connecting with other

TV's, TS's, or women who support TV's emotionally in western NY."
Paige K. (NY-2846)

Sandi T. (NY-2902)

SANDI T. (NYC) (#58)
Member: Metamorphosis
5'11", blond with blue-green eyes, 140. Feminine TV, pre-op TS. Recently started estrogen therapy, and will remain pre-operative. "I enjoy the exciting chemistry of the male-female relationship. I'm looking for an affectionate, decent man over 6' for a long-term relationship."
Sandi T. (NY-2902)

Carol T. (NY-2910)

CAROL TAYLOR (C NY) (#57)
Member: Eon, TCNE
Participant: Tiffany P-Town WSG (6 yrs.), 'Coming Together' '90
MWM, 40 something, 5'9", 160, size 16. Interested in femininity, writing (about CDing), boating. "Married to a supportive (but not delighted) wife. Love everything feminine and enjoy corresponding. Like to share photos. Believe this practice should be enjoyable, not painful."
Carol T. (NY-2910)

HEATHER A. (LI-NY) (#56)
Member: LIFE
DWM, 42, 6', size 16, fair complexion, brown eyes, slender. "Enjoy fine dining, music, computer games, and bowling. TV since childhood. Like lingerie, and looking feminine. Pass and go out. Like to meet TV's, women who like TV's, and F-M TV's. Interested in meeting people form Suffolk County. Try to answer all."
Heather A., P.O. Box 417, Upton, NY 11973 (NY-2859)

KIM CODY (NY) (#58)
MWM, 49, 6'2", 180, lifelong CD. "I'm out of the closet, but would like to leave the house. I'd like to spend the day at a beauty salon having my hair cut, set, and permed, to have my nail polished while sitting under the dryers with the other ladies and to top it off by having my make-up done before going out for the evening. Supportive wife and I would like to correspond and meet with other couples."
Kim Cody (NY-2927)

EMILY L. (NY) (#57)
MWM, 45, hetero. "Just emerging with the help of supportive wife. Emily is excited to be alive, and is looking forward to making new friends who share her special thoughts. Looking for a group in Central NY. Your letter will get a quick response. Photo encouraged."
Emily L. (NY-2966)

DENISE M. (NY) (#58)
Member: Tri-Ess.
43, 6'1", degreed, life-long CD, single, discrete, good humored, own small business, straight. Interested in golf, volley ball, architecture. "Would like to meet others. Need make up help/practice. Seldom get chance to do it. Dress most evenings. Where can I buy Misses tall sizes (18-20)? Lane Bryant seems to be dropping talls."
Denise Miller, PO Box 361, Amherst, NY 14226-0361 (NY-2974)

Susan A. (NY-2978)

SUSAN AVISHNA (LI NY) (#57)
Mid 40's, hetero, good sense of humor, 5'8", 160, brown hair, hazel eyes. Interested in CD group, photography, writing. Love auto racing. "Would like to make friends for dressing and photos. Have passed. Sincere, honest, and friendly. Not interested in vulgar photos, or in dating men. Any help or advice would be appreciated. Travel north, east and west coasts. Photos please."
Susan Avishna (NY-2978)

DENISE MILLER (NY) (#58)
Member: IFGE.
MWM, 50, 5'6", 160, healthy, professional, private person, discreet. Interested in reading, movies, computers, cooking, photography, would like to try dancing, dining out, getting together for friendship, etc. "In closet except when traveling, dressed for shopping, mall walking. May be passable, need assurance. Prefer business suits and after five dresses. Correspondence OK, but need time to respond.
Denise Miller (NY-3012)

JULIE B. (NY) (#58)
6', 185, gray/brown hair, brown eyes, over fifty. Interested in items covered in Tapestry and strong masochistic tendencies towards the opposite sex. "I am strictly a neophyte."
Julie B. (NY-3053)

Deni O. (NY-3124)

DENI O. (NY) (#58)
DWM, 5'7", 49. Interested in sports, model railroading, and building furniture. "Cross-dresser for thirty-five years, but very secretive. Basically still a novice. Looking for help to develop my feminine side. Live on Long Island."
Deni O. (NY-3124)

PENNSYLVANIA (150- 196-)

Sheila K. (PA-0336)

SHEILA KIRK (W PA) (#99)
IFGE Board of Directors (Executive Committee), 'Coming Together' Staff
Member: Tiffany Club, TransPitt, Paradise
Participant: Everything
Attractive TV, dedicated to this wonderful joy of dressing. "I work very hard, so moments of relaxation and pleasure of this sort are precious to me. I love being a TV, and I'm eager to meet many others who delight in the same feelings."
Sheila K. (PA-0336)

CATHERINE ROSEMARY D. (E PA) (#56)
Member: Outreach
SWM hetero crossdresser, 60+, 5'9", 190. "It's unlikely that I would pass, but am interested in the world of the crossdresser, and would like to get acquainted."
Catherine D. (PA-0748)

DAVIDA T. (E PA) (#56)
SWM, 39, shy and discreet. "Just starting to come out, thanks to a few friends. Enjoy spending my free time being as feminine as possible. I'm seeking friends who would like to share that time with me."
Davida T. (PA-0944)

Robin F. (PA-0932)

ROBIN FREY (E PA) (#56)
Member: Renaissance
"42-year-old pre-op would love to find employment and live full-time as a female. Free to travel; would love other TV's and TS's to give me a call."
Robin, Box 2072, Southeastern, PA 19399 (PA-0932)

Cynthia H. (PA-0952)

CINDY H. (E PA) (#56)
Member: Renaissance, Phila. TS Support
Participant: 'Coming Together'
Pre-op TS, 5'9", 175, brown hair, eyes, hormones, electrolysis.
Interested in meeting masculine white males, music, videos, shopping, intimate dating. "Enjoy living as a woman. I've always considered myself to be female, appear female when going out in public."
Cindy H. (PA-0952)

Alison L. (PA-1242)

ALISON LAING (E PA) (#58)
Member: Renaissance
Awards: FF Miss Congeniality
Middle age, middle sized, life-long CD.

Married. Wonderful, supportive spouse. Enjoys arts and crafts. Loves to shop at flea markets and antique shops, good food, wine, travel and dancing. "Take my gender shift seriously, and work hard to be unobtrusive, if not passable. I try to have lots of fun and at the same time help make others in our community happy."

Alison Laing, P.O. Box 635, Phoenixville, PA 19460 (PA-1242)

Maryann K. (PA-1531)

MARYANN KIRKLAND (E PA) (#59)

Member: Renaissance, Greater Philadelphia, Public Outreach Director.

Attended: IFGE '90, '91, Texas T Party, Pocono Weekend, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning.

Awards: 1990 Renaissance Woman of the Year.

MWM, hetero, TV, 5'11", early forties, married. Wife is very supportive and well known in the community. "All spouses are urged to write to us. Outreach activities include college class-room speaking, professional seminars, and television shows. Although a gutsy lady, the little girl in me still adores crinolines and ballerinas."

Maryann Kirkland, P O Box 1242, Newtown PA 18940 (PA-1531)

CAMMILLE S. (W PA) (#58)

Rather middle aged (40's), plumpish leather freak who, for the most part, is closet bound. "I love to get letters, though often forget to respond to them. I try to emulate '50s type woman, heavily padded, dressed too warmly, overly made-up, and overweight (not by design). Also like satin when found, and total feminine appearance."

Cammille S. (PA-1274)

REBECCA SUE M. (PA) (#57)

"Retired professional white male, mid sixties, a long time cross-dresser now experiencing the thrill of coming out of the closet. Love being a TV and feminine, dedicated to the joy of dressing and striving for perfection. Want to correspond or meet with CD's with similar background. Suburban Philadelphia area."

Rebecca M. (PA-1357)

SUE ANN S. (C PA) (#55)

SWM hetero TV, 5'9", 150, 45. "Interested in meeting TV's, TS's, & women for dining, dancing, shopping, girl talk, etc. No drugs or heavy drinkers."

Sue Ann S. (PA-1458)

JENNIFER WHITE (W PA) (#56)

Member: TransPitt, Paradise

Participant: 'Be All'

5'10", 170, brown hair, green eyes. Interested in sports, fashion, writing, photography. "Looking for males for escorts, CD's for shopping, going out, etc. Nothing bizarre, please."

Jennifer White (PA-1722)

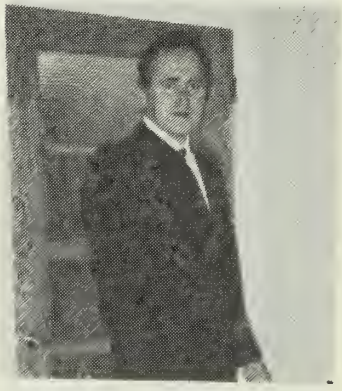
Janet R. (PA-1879)

JANET ROSE (PA) (#57)

Participant: Be All

WM TV, 47, 5'11", 149. Interested in business, race cars, domestic chores, crossdressing. "I do turn into an exhibitionist in front of a camera. Would love to meet mature, understanding women for fun and friendship. Girlfriend also interested in meeting CD's wives. I have come a long way in the last 30 years. Hope I can go much further!"

Janet Rose (PA-1879)



Craig S. (PA-1977)

CRAIG SAMSON (E PA) (#58)

SWM, 6', 185, 35, athletically built and masculine in disposition. "I am seeking very feminine TV's or TS's between the ages of 21 to 30 to meet & develop possible long term relationships with. I work in construction & will travel any distance for that special person. Please send photo & phone. Will answer all those who meet my requirements."

Craig S. (PA-1977)

ROBIN F. (W PA) (#61)

SWM, early forties, 6', 175. Professional with graduate degree.

Interested in psychology of cross-dressing fantasies. "Recently had my first make over. Enjoy dancing in full skirts and petticoats. Also like showing off my legs in minis and heels. Appreciate assistance from other cross-dressers and women who would help me integrate my anima and my animus."

Robin F. (PA-2020)

WILLOW AYLA SHENEN (PA) (#58)

Member: IFGE

38, 5'8", 170, blue eyes, brown hair, DWM, hetero TV. Interested in Native American spirituality and culture, environmental concerns, reading, conversation, and being in nature. "Lifetime CD/TV. Accepted myself 15 years ago. Happy with balance with my feminine side. Appear very natural when dressed. Supportive girlfriend helps in whatever way she can. Express my feminine nature in all aspects of my life."

Willow S. (PA-2052)

Brenda D. (PA-2252)

BRENDA DAVIDSON (C PA) (#58)

Member: LSV Chapter Renaissance (Chapter leader)

Participant: Annual LSV Luau

Awards: 1990 Renaissance Meritorious Service Award.

Married TV, 28, 5'8", 145. "Have appeared on local talk shows and the Evening Magazine. Have an understanding wife. Able to be Brenda and try to make this visible to others."

Brenda Davidson, P.O. Box 383, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 (PA-2252)

Sharon M. (PA-2326)

SHARON M. (E PA) (#59)

Member: Renaissance

SWM, 32, 5'10", 145. Lives in Phila. area. Attractive, non-smoker, serious writer. Interested in correspondence and dating females and "T" people. "Cross-dressing has come between my last two girlfriends and me. Time to start finding friends who understand."

Sharon M. (PA-2326)

JAMIE W. (C PA) (#56)

Member: Renaissance

5'10", 180, 50's. Enjoys cross-dressing, leather, & high heels. New to the sisterhood.

Occupant, P.O. Box "J," Hershey, PA 17033 (PA-2383)

W.D.A. (E PA) (#56)

Member: Renaissance-Reading

Bi WM, 38, 5'7", stocky build, brown hair, green eyes. Interested in fine dining, walks, jazz, dancing, and theater. "Although I have not crossdressed, am attracted to those who do. Would like to date TV's/TS's to learn more of the TV/TS culture."

W.D.A. (PA-2464)

Hillary C. (PA-2387)

HILLARY C. (E PA) (#56)

Member: Renaissance

Participant: Paradise In The Poconos

Single TV, 5'10", 145, 24, brown hair, blue eyes. Enjoys dancing, sharing feelings, music, comedy and old movies. "Want to meet a passable, caring TV to share the joys of being a woman. Would like to exchange photos, stories, and dreams."

H. Conway, P.O. Box 1556, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703 (PA-2387)

Pamela D. (PA-2455)

PAMELA DRESSER (W PA) (#56)

Member: Tri-Ess, Alpha-Omega.

Events attended: Texas "T" Party.

MWM, hetero, 5'10", 148, 45, size 12. Professionally employed. Wife tolerant. "Would love to correspond with any CD's who enjoy the non-sexual pleasures of feminine expression. My dream is to eventually locate enough hetero CD's to form a local self-support group."

R. Dresser, 2115 W. 8th St. Suite 261, Erie, PA 16505 (PA-2455)

MICHELLE D. (SE PA) (#56)

MWM, 38, 5'10", 185, college-educated professional. Enjoy fine lingerie, satin dresses, and high heels. Married to accepting and helpful wife. "I'm a novice, and have never been out. Would like to correspond with other married couples concerning CD relationships."

Michelle D. (PA-2623)

PHYLLIS W. (W PA) (#56)

5'11", 36, white CD. Interested in skiing, art, music, guitar, trips to the country. "Began CD as a pre-teen. Cross-dress as frequently as possible, but afraid to go out in public. My need for crossdressing is increasing. Feel alone, and would like to write others to share interests and

feelings."

P.W., P.O. Box 18413, Pittsburgh, PA 15236 (PA-2770)

LOUISE W. (PA) (#57)

MWM, 5'6", 190, blond hair, blue eyes, non-passable, mid-40's. Interested in golf, music, writing. "I am new to the TV scene. Louise has been hiding for 40 years. Would love to correspond or meet to visit. Will really answer all letters. Wife totally nonsupportive, so I am very much in closet, but looking for supportive sisters! I travel to Ohio, western NY, western PA, and Detroit."

L. Worth, P.O. Box 79016, Pittsburgh, PA 15216 (PA-2806)

REBECCA L. (PA) (59)

33, 5'11", 158, brown eyes, brunette, nondrinker, nonsmoker, pretty and passable, married, one child. Interested in quiet walks, the arts, psychology. "As a lifelong CD, I am now just beginning to feel more confidence and understanding within myself. Unfortunately, I am still very much in the proverbial 'closet.' Interested in hormonal and sociological experience of transformation."

Rebecca L. (PA-2808)

CHERYL ANN WALTERS (PA) (#57)

Single TV, 23, 5'10", 145, auburn hair, blue eyes. Interested in music, dancing, outdoors, current events, sports (especially soccer and basketball). "I am an easy going, clean, loving, and sincere individual. I want to experience as truly as I can what it's like to be a woman. Still very much 'in the closet' and, due to family, do not dress at home. Would like to correspond with TV's, TS's, GG's."

Cheryl Ann Walters, P.O. Box 14333, Phila., PA 19115 (PA-2811)

Misha R. (PA-2882)

MISHA ROBERTS (PA) (#57)

SWM, 5'11", 29, hetero. "Very feminine and cute. Looking to correspond and meet the same."

Misha R. (PA-2882)

DELAWARE (197- 199-)

AUDREY J. STEELE (DE) (#59)

Member: Tri-Ess

Participant: 'Holiday En Femme'

WWM TV, 5'10", 195, 54, blue eyes, brown hair. "Almost out of the closet. Mother knows and accepts me as Audrey. 3 adult children don't yet. Love all facets of cross-dressing. Like photography, meeting other CD's, writing to CD's, making new friends. Will answer. Please write."

Audrey S. (DE-2434)

Emily S. DE-0629)

EMILY SHELDON (N DE) (#57)

Member: Renaissance

Participant: Fantasia Fair, IFGE Convention, Paradise in Poconos.

Mature TV (50), pass easily in public. Enjoy fashion, friends, fun, helping others get out of the closet. Attend 2-3 TV meetings/month, 2-3 major TV events/year. "Looking for passable girlfriends to go out with, as well as roommates to share expenses. Seek correspondence."

E. Sheldon, P.O. Box 4457, Greenville, DE 19807 (DE-0629)

Phyllis L. (DE-0931)

PHYLLIS VANETTA LARSON (DE) (#59)

Member: IFGE, Tiffany Club of New England, Tri-Ess Chi Delta Mu Chapter.

Attended TCNE Awards BAnquet, 1991.

60, 6', 180. A Gracious Lady married 40 years to an understanding wife. Self employed, often dresses in home & office, sleeps en femme. Electrolysis completed, sails competetively, active in Protestant church. FAA rated pilot, resides in Southern Delaware. Gentle, caring. Letters answered.

Phyllis Vanetta Larson (DE-0931)

Leslie F. (DE-2425)

LESLIE FAIRMONT (N DE) (#59)

Member: Renaissance.

DWM, TV/TS, 12/6/40, 5'6", 135, blue eyes. "Pass easily in public. Have gone shopping, dining, clubbing, and sightseeing en femme. Attend 2 or 3 meetings per month. Seeking other sisters. Interested in all aspects of femininity. Not macho, but willing to 'push the envelop.' Intelligent, warm, caring, imaginative person with a sense of humor."

Occupant, P O Box 5093, Wilmington, DE 19808 (DE-2425)

WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (200- 205-)

Roberta L. (DC-0972)

ROBERTA LEWIS (DC) (#56)

Member: Washington-Baltimore Alliance

DBM, 38, 6'2", 200. Interested in cycling, latest hits, going out, visiting the 'Big Apple.' "Even though the WBA takes a lot of my time, I still will find time to answer letters (please, only from CD's and transgendered persons). I still want to hear from other black CD's."

R. Lewis, P.O. Box 50724, Washington, DC 20004-0724 (DC-0972)

Mary N. (DC-2976)

MARY JANICE N. (DC) (#58)

SWM, 42, 5'6", 154. "I love all things feminine: classic dresses - especially with lace and Peter Pan collars, girl talk, and shopping. Very active in Gay and Lesbian issues. College educated. Travel the US extensively. Seeking friends anywhere in the United States. Will start pre-op in the fall of '91. Will answer all who write. Photos appreciated. Sincerity a must!"

M. Janice Nicase, AAVV, PO Box 27286, Washington, DC 20038-7286 (DC-2976)

MARY ELLEN K. (DC) (#57)

MWM, late 50's, with more grey hair than I would like, matronly when dressed. Interested in music, travel books, Sandy Thomas fiction stories. "I do not have the opportunity to dress often because of the family situation at home, but I do have an understanding wife. I wear underthings regularly and enjoy that. Would like to correspond and share with others in like situations!"

Mary Ellen K., P.O. Box 44900, Washington, D.C. 20026 (DC-1438)

CHRISTINA FERRANTE (DC) (#58)

SWM, 25, blond, 5'10". Young coed, sweet, shy, yet sexy. "I enjoy cocktail parties, soap operas, shopping, and mini-skirts. I'm waiting for my Edward Lewis to make me his 'Pretty Woman.' I'd love to hear from you all out there, and look forward to exchanging photos and stories."

Christina Ferrante, P.O. Box 42298, Washington, D.C. 20015 (DC-2906)

MARYLAND (206- 218-)

Kate G. (MD-1652)

KATE GOLDMAN (MD) (#59)

Member: ETVC.

Wrote, "Images of You" in Tapestry #58.

5'8", 155, 44, TV, supportive wife. Interested in photography, reading, computers, and music. "I've practiced in the closet long enough. Overcoming my anxieties, ready to participate, and determined to meet others. Promise to write back to all who correspond. Please send photo."

Kate Goldman (MD-1652)

Nancy B. (MD-2046)

NANCY ANN B. (MD) (#58)

Member: Supporting Member-IFGE, Delti Chi, Washington-Baltimore Alliance - on Board of Directors, Tri-Ess.

Participant: Fantasia Fair '90, '91.

Auburn hair, brown eyes, 5'9", 165.

Interested in dressing since age 12, sports. "Tried to be like other boys, but, as the only boy in a family of five girls, I wanted to be dressed like them, and did, every chance I got."

Nancy Ann B. (MD-2046)

Ricki F. (MD-2137)

RICKI ANN F. (MD) (#57)

MWM, 56, retired Catholic. Married 33 years. Interests include computers, ham radio, design and building, sci-fi, fantasy. "All mail answered."

Ricki F. (MD-2137)

Diane F. (MD-2229)

DIANE FERN (MD) (#58)

"I am a mature androgenous TV with transgender inclinations. I'm married to a very supportive wife. I enjoy gourmet cooking, 'cool' and progressive jazz, walks on the beach, sailing, and small social get-togethers. I dress virtually every day. I reside in Annapolis, and look forward to meeting people in the MD, DC, VA, or PA area interested in the TV/TG lifestyle and sharing gender euphoria."

Diane F. (MD-2229)

Julia C. (MD-2739)

JULIA CYBELE (C MD) (#57)

Member: IFGE, My Choice, Daughters of Isis, Mensa.

Participant: Texas 'T' Party.

1952 Libra, 5'10", 180, dark blonde tresses; sensitive, feminine INFP; slowly emerging TS. Interests include classical and new-age music; cosmetology and cosmology, goddess adoration; reincarnation; the numinous, mystical and transcendent; beauty to all the senses, sunsets, teas, cultures of Antiquity; science-fiction, pen-friends; girl-talk, and the joy of laughter.

Julia C. (MD-2739)

Eleanor O. (MD-2747)

ELEANOR O. (C MD) (#56)

WM TV, 41, 5'10", 170, blue eyes, brown hair. "I have been dressing for 25+ years, but only accepted this part of my nature 10 years ago. Dress often. I like the professional, feminine, conservative style, which fits my nature as a management woman. Hope to meet and/or correspond with other TV-CD's and TS's. Will respond to all who write."

Eleanor O. (MD-2747)

Barbara A. (MD-2795)

BARBARA A. (MD) (#57)

Member: D.C.E.A.

TV, 5'10", 140 lbs., blond hair, blue eyes. Travel frequently to CA, Co, FL, and Al. "Interested in corresponding with others and making new friends."

Barbara A., P.O. Box 3255, Laural, MD 20709 (MD-2795)

MICHELLE LYNN GERALD (MD) (#57)

TS, 32. "I enjoy reading, writing, cooking, and photography. Am a shy and caring soul who desires to correspond with anyone in the TV/TS community. Beginning trek toward the adoption of a feminine lifestyle. Would be grateful for any assistance. I promise to quickly respond to any (and all!) inquiries I may receive."

Michelle Gerald, P.O. Box 11737, Baltimore, MD 21206-0337 (MD-2168)

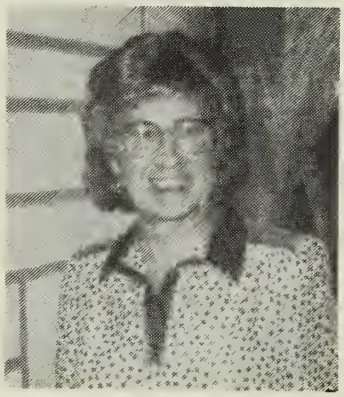
HELEN G. (MD) (#59)

Member of Delta Chi and Washington Baltimre Alliance.

Attended Fantasia Fair the last three years, Texas T Party, Program Director Delta Chi.

Big TV, 5'9", size 26, 48 bra. Interessted in classical music, photography, and attending TV meetings and events. "I love attending and working for the Fair and my local groups. Love to meet TV sisters. Love all aspects of crossdressing. Would love to meet a genetic female who understands crossdressers."

Helen G. (MD-2227)



Lynn B. (MD-2931)

LYNN B. (MD) (#58)

Member: Tri-Ess

Participant: Poconos Weekend

6', 175, 60, hetero TV, married, supportive wife. Interested in good music, photograpghy, fishing, string art. "Been CD since age 13. Mother found out when I was 11. Interested in meeting others, couples, for friendship and support. All CD's in MD, DE, VI, come on out, to have our own chapter!"

Lynn B. (MD-2931)

CHARLENE H. (MD) (#58)

Member: Tri-Ess, Rennaissance

43, 5'9", 150, TV, married for 20+ years. Interested in classical music, computers, woodworking. "Have crossdressed for as long as I can remember. Am fairly conservative with my clothing. Would love to come out of the closet more, but cannot. I would like to correspond with those of similar interest, especially those in the Balt/Wash area."

Charlene H. (MD-2274)

LISA N. (C MD) (#57)

MWM, 5'9", 40. "I have been crossdressing since I can remember, but now I need a new beginning; a search for the real me. It's been a few years since I've gone out in public dressed - help! Wife is generally tolerant but infrequently supportive. Would sincerely enjoy corresponding with other TV's, and would enjoy meeting with those in DC/Balt./So. Md. area. I'm a friend of Bill W."

Lisa N. (MD-2640)

ROSA R. (C MD) (#57)

6'1", 195, 60, widowed 11 years. "Not passable at present. Interest in being very buxom. Would enjoy writing to all who share these feelings. Into dressing feminine on most evenings. Enjoy relaxing in heels, stockings, lingerie, wigs. Will correspond with all who like 'girl-talk' concerning same. Would like to correspond with she-males, also."

Rosa R. (MD-2653)

ANN MILLER (C MD) (#57)

Member: Tri-Ess

MWM, 39, 6', 180, lifelong TV. "Ready to start out of the closet. Interested in corresponding with other TV's and TS's. Educated, responsible person desiring to meet same. Please respond with photo."

Ann M. (MD-2776)

VIRGINIA (220- 246-)

Kay G. (VA-0323)

KAY GOULD (VA) (#56)

Very feminine and totally passable. Enjoy all aspects of feminine lifestyle. Strong personality with ultra feminine tastes. Enjoy fine music, dining, theater, and high fashion. "Date extensively, travel the US. Appreciate male escorts in most cities. Accomplished in feminine ways, but a demanding personality. Write for several national publications."

Kay Gould, Box 8562, Alexandra, VA 22306 (VA-0323)

Jayne M. (VA-1206)

JAYNE M. (VA) (#57)

Late 40's, 5'8", 165, blue eyes, light brown/grey hair. Interests include dressing, writing, reading. "Although a lifelong CD, I am still learning about my feminine side, and how to make Jayne the best she can be. Anxious to correspond with all sisters - to learn from them, and to share that which few outsiders can - or will bother - to understand."

Jayne M. (VA-1206)

Christina S. (VA-1868)

CHRISTINA S. (VA) (#56)

Member: Tri-Ess

MWM, 40's, 6', 185. Enjoy photography, big band music, collectable records, cooking, and going out dressed. "Like to write other

sisters. Forming new Tri-Ess group in Richmond. Like to attend Holiday En Femme or similar event."

Christina Smith, P.O. Box 34621, Richmond, VA 23234 (VA-1868)

Sheila W. (VA-2276)

SHEILA W. (VA) (#58)

6', 180, green eyes, and long legs. Intersested in woodworking and photography. "I love to exchange letters and pctures. I try to answer others promptly. Am becoming more active all the time. Look forward to attending some of the national events."

Sheila W., P O Box 64593, VA Beach, VA 23467 (VA-2276)

Kemberly C. (VA-2300)

KEMBERLY CARLSON (N VA) (#58)

Member: Delta Chi

DWM, 5'11", 50, size 18, live in DC area with SO. Comfortable with self, ventures out dressed last 3 years. Love to pose in front of camera, water skiing, boating, and stained glass. "Enjoy all aspects of femme lifestyle. Would like to write & meet others who enjoy crossdressing. Have a sense of humor, and can laugh at myself & enjoy life. Will respond to all."

Kem Carlson, P.O. Box 8, Herndon, VA 22070 (VA-2300)

SUSAN REYNOLDS (VA) (#56)

Member: IFGE, Tri-Ess

Participant: P-town and Poconos gatherings

Reasonably passable. Love sleek clothing. Adore being VERY buxom when at home. "I write to a number of sisters, and especially enjoy writing to those sisters who like being buxom. Am very happy and content with myself as a woman."

Susan Reynolds, Box 11160, Alexandria, VA 22312 (VA-0017)

DEBBIE OGLE (C VA) (#57)

Pre-op MTF TS, 6', 180, dark brown hair, blue-green eyes, fair skin. Interests include computers, sci-fi fantasy, music (Renaissance, Moody Blues, etc.), TG people. "I am planning to be full-time by Jan '91. Am interested in meeting or corresponding with TV/TG/TS/GG's, especially in the Lynchburg, Roanoke, Charlottesville area."

Debbie O. (VA-2095)

Robin M. (VA-2351)

ROBIN MARTIN (VA) (#56)

SWM, 35, 5'7", 155. Enjoys all things creative and artistic. Likes decorating, working out and dressing for the total look whenever possible. "Would like correspondence and photo swaps with others who enjoy and understand this special lifestyle."

Robin Martin, P.O. Box 955, Salem, VA 24153 (VA-2351)

DONNA E. (VA) (#59)

DWM, hetero, TV, 5'11", 170, 45, 14-16. Interested in snow skiing, cooking, hunting, fishing, and dressing up. "Closet TV most of my life. Now seeking to meet other TV's and genetic women for friendship, and to help me to refine my make-up and hair skills. Write and send photo. I'll reciprocate as soon as possible."

Donna E. (VA-2502)

SAMANTHA W. (VA) (#58)

Member: IFGE, Virginia's Secret.

MWM, hetero TV, in closet, over 70, but hale, retired electronics engineer. Interested in amateur radio, sailing, wood carving, fishing gardening, computers. Live in rural VA on bay 70 mi. from Richmond. "Just started meeting others. Wife unaware, probably not supportive. Have severely suppressed my TV interest for many years. Am really enjoying some liberation. Could not pass under any circumstances."

Samantha W. (VA-3052)

WEST VIRGINIA (246- 268-)

PRISCILLA WENTWORTH (WV) (#57)

Member: Crossroads

MWM TV, 5'10", 170. Retired from Foreign Service. Widely travelled, broad interests. Likes to correspond with other TV's/TS's.

P.M. Wentworth, Box 687, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411 (WV-0640)

DEE H. (WV) (#58)

Member: Tri-Ess

46, heterosexual, CD since age 3, divorced after 20 years, 5'10", gray-brown hair, 160, Christian. Interests: All things feminine, developing a better look, fishing canoeing, biking, sewing. "Would like to relocate and meet a woman who could accept me for me. Need some help in make-up. Will write as time permits. Any employment opportunities would be greatly appreciated."

D. D. Hensell, P.O. Box 422, Ridgeley, WV 26753 (WV-2329)

Alona M. (WV-1804)

ALONA VICTORIA MILLER (WV) (#56)

Member: TVW (president), Tri-Ess, Cross-Port, IXE, Trans-Pitt

Participant: Coming Together, '88, '89, '90

Life-long crossdresser, married, wife does not participate. Master of Divinity degree, + hours on a Ph.D. Interested in crossdressing and meeting new sisters. "Am in the clergy with training in counseling. Anyone having trouble dealing with the religion and crossdressing, am available."

Alona Victoria Miller, P.O. Box 703, Lewisburg, WV 24901 (WV-1804)

Kaye L. (WV-2435)

KAYE LORRAINE LIGHTNER (WV) (#59)

Member: OPERN, WVTV

Lifelong CD, just coming out. Interested in Sci Fi, classical music, films. "Am a better than average cartoonist and portrait artist. Wife accepting - sometimes enthusiastic. Wife wants to correspond with other spouses. Am in helping profession. Hope to get into gender counseling. TV/TS group forming in Kayawha Valley area."

Kaye L. (WV-2435)

BEVERLY R. WILLIAMS (W WV) (#56)

Member: Trans-WV

WM, 5'10", 41. Interests include beautiful clothes, cooking, photography, and travel. "CD since age 7. Feminine side is very strong. Enjoy femme world, very comfortable. Has not always been easy - Trans WV was a big help! Would like to write to CD's, TV's, and TS's. Want to learn as much as I can. Growth is what life is all about."

Beverly W. (WV-2687)

Renee H. (WV-2604)

RENEE H. (S WV) (#56)

Member: Crossport, TWV

MWM, 5'10", 225, brown eyes. Married to understanding and very supportive wife. Enjoys shopping, girl talk, and picture-taking sessions. Not comfortable going out yet, but loves crossdressing. "Would like to hear from other sisters in WV and surrounding areas."

Renee H. (WV-2604)

Tabetha T. (WV-2453)

TABETHA ANN TABOR (WV) (#56)

Member: Tri-Ess, CrossPort, Trans WV

Hetero CD, 22, 6', 165. Interested in music, sci-fi, tropical fish, Christianity, photography, science and technology, collecting coins, daydreaming. "About halfway out of closet. In past year, I've made great strides. Want to go out much more than I do now and looking for a 'real' woman to share and experience life with!"

Tabetha Ann Tabor, c/o Trans-WV, P.O. Box 2322, Huntington, WV 25742-2322 (WV-2453)

NORTH CAROLINA (270- 289-)

BEVERLY R. WILLIAMS (W WV) (#56)

Member: Trans-WV

WM, 5'10", 41. Interests include beautiful clothes, cooking, photography, and travel. "CD since age 7. Feminine side is very strong. Enjoy femme world, very comfortable. Has not always been easy - Trans WV was a big

help! Would like to write to CD's, TV's, and TS's. Want to learn as much as I can. Growth is what life is all about."

Beverly W. (WV-2687)

Sandy J. (NC-0906)

SANDY JOHNSON (NC) (#57)

5'7", 140 lbs. "Interested in corresponding with other TV's, TS's to achieve a better understanding and acceptance of our community."

Sandy J. (NC-0906)

Frances T. (NC-1245)

FRANCES T. (NC) (#58)

Member: ETVC, Tri-Ess.

Participant: Coming together, Be All.

Late 30's, 5'7", 140. "Pass very well. Enjoy shopping, chatting with store clerks, beauty personnel, etc., who know me. Flew dressed to my last convention. Look forward to doing it again next year. Browse in women's magazines and dress catalogues. Not a good correspondent."

Frances T. (NC-1245)

CHERYL BISHOP (NC) (#58)

Member: EEE, Paradise, Chi Chapter

Participant: Be All, '85

43, divorced, hetero, somewhat closeted. Interested in duplicate bridge, golf, tennis. "I'm more interested in issues like self-acceptance, blending crossdressing and marriage, etc. than clothes, make-up, etc."

Cheryl B. (NC-2334)

NANCY L. (NC) (#56)

DWM, 42, 5'10, 150, blonde hair, hazel eyes, life long CD'er. Enjoys music, dancing, swimming in my pool and shopping for anything feminine. "Like to correspond and meet other CD/TV/TS's for friendship and sharing. I'm looking for a special person who is honest, loving and caring to share a home with and let our femininity grow together. Will answer all who write and send photo."

Nancy L. (NC-2504)

Becky P. (NC-2343)

BECKY P. (NC) (#58)

Member: Tri-Ess, Kappa Beta

5'4", 133. Interested in reading, photography, good music, going out in public dressed. "I love to send and receive mail from TV/TS sisters. Will answer all who write."

Becky P. (NC-2343)

Melody A. (NC-1930)

MELODY DIANNE ALLEN (NC) (#56)

Pre-op M-F TS, single, 5'7", 125, light brown hair, blue eyes. Enjoys music, photography, billiards. "Would love to correspond and/or meet other TV's, TS's, etc., for friendship, fun, what have you. Can entertain in my home, or travel."

Melody Allen, P.O. Box 14683, Raleigh, NC 27620 (NC-1930)

Suzanne B. (NC-2414)

SUZANNE ELIZABETH BISHOP (NC) (#59)

Member: Tri-Ess

Tall, slender, blue-eyed blonde, enjoys yoga, jogging, reading, music, conversation and the arts. "Although relatively closeted for family and business reasons, I do go out from time to time with no problems. Would like to meet other CD's in my area for friendship and fun."

Suzanne B. (NC-2414)

Donna M. (NC-2912

DONNA M. (NC) (#57)

5'7", 130, 36, brown eyes and hair. Interested in auto races, computers, bowling, learning about new things (including myself). "I am still in the closet and would like help getting out. Love to dress. Love the feel of it all. Hope to meet an honest, understanding S.O. to become part of my special life. Like to hear from all CD's, TV's, and TS's. Will reply."

Donna M. (NC-2912)

Tabitha V. (NC-2616)

TABITHA VALKYRIE (NC) (#56)

5'6", 130. "I celebrated my new birthday July 23, 1991. I'm female, Yeah! Would like to hear from people with a sense of humor who enjoy being alive. All those having Attention Deficit Disorder are encouraged to write."

Tabitha Valkyrie, P O Box 14328-4328, Raleigh NC 2760 (NC-2616)

ANNA LARSON (NC) (#58)

Member of IFGE.

WM, CD, 36 years old, BS in Human Biology. "Enjoy reading, conversation, shopping, and fine dining. Would like to start a support group in the Greensboro and Winston-Salem area."

Anna Larson, P O Box 4361, Greensboro, NC 27404, (NC-3091)

Ann H. (NC-3066)

ANNE MARIE HARTMAN (NC) (#58)

MWM, 48, 5'9", 160, brown hair, blue eyes. Interested in classical music, sailing, golf, and girl watching. "Life-long cross-dresser with special interest in lingerie and hosiery. Passable at times. Would like to meet new TV/TS friends for mutual support. I respond to all correspondence promptly."

A. M. Hartman, P O Box 34102, Charlotte, NC 28234 (NC-3066)

SOUTH CAROLINA (290- 299-)

Bobbi L. (SC-2149)

BOBBI RENEE LONG (SC) (#58)

Member: Kappa Beta

MWM, 55, 5'8". "I spend most of my CD time in public. I love dancing, shopping, eating out, and any activity that I can do as a woman. I like conservative clothes and make-up. I've had speech therapy and hormones have eliminated the need for pads to have a feminine body. I'll write all."

Bobbi Renee Long, P.O. Box 210276, Columbia, SC 29221 (SC-2149)

Alicia H. (SC-2533)

ALISHA MICHELLE H. (SC) (#56)

MWM, 5'5", 140, mid 50's. Interested in swimming, fishing, photography, dressing. "Have been CD since age 10. Have never had any contact with any sisters. Need help with makeup & voice. Would like to correspond with other sisters in my area."

Alisha H. (SC-2533)

GEORGIA (300- 319-)

Dianne K. (GA-1298)

DIANNE KENDALL (GA) (#61)

Member: Tri-Ess: Sigma Epsilon

Participant: Fantasia Fair '90, Be All '90, T-Party '91, Southern Comfort '91. Columnist for The American Crossdresser.

"Life-long TV, willowy, sensuous, feminine with extensive wardrobe including much lingerie. Heels for every occasion. I write stories about boys being sweetly dressed as girls by girls."

Dianne K. (GA-1298)

D-Jae S. (GA-2126)

D-JAE S. (GA) (#58)

Member: Tri-Ess, Sigma Epsilon.

Mid 40's, 185, 5'8". Interested in people, aviation, ham radio, travel. "Enjoy corresponding with others. Travel southeast US a lot, other regions occasionally. Dressed since childhood. Enjoy going out, and social functions with sisters. Will answer all."

Diane Jae Shere, P O Box 89, Lithia Springs, GA 30057 (GA-2126)

Jocelyn R. (GA-2612)

JOCELYN RUSSELL (W GA) (#56)

TS. "I would like to get advice from anybody about dealing with the FAA during and after transition. I am especially concerned with the medical aspects. Also interested in meeting new people in general."

Jocelyn R. (GA-2612)

Melanie S. (GA-2265)

MELANIE S. (GA) (#58)

Member: Dixie Belles

Participant: Be All

Married lifetime CD, 46, 5'13", 185. "I'm enjoying life more every day, especially since Melanie has met and made so many new special friends. Love satins, laces, and heels."

Melanie S. (GA-2265)

Connie L. (GA-2611)

CONNIE MICHELLE LYNN (C GA) (#56)

MWM, hetero TV, 6'2", 240, 27, still in closet, but wanting to get out sometime. Enjoy anything feminine, such as dressing up, make-up, shoes; also any kind of music, golf, reading, shopping. "Would like to correspond, and possibly meet other CD/TG/TS's for friendship, sharing of feminine secrets and interests, or just 'girl talk.' Would like to see my femininity grow with a little help. I will answer all correspondence."

C. Lynn, P.O. Box 1742, Gray, GA 31032 (GA-2611)

STEPHANIE ROSE (NW GA) (#56)

23, 5'10",140, single. Interests include clothes, computers. "I'm looking for a girlfriend who can accept this, and also for friends. I dress somewhat conservatively, but like to show my legs when shaved. I've been going out dressed for a few months now, and I like to think I could pass with a little more effort."

S. Rose, P.O. Box 1442, Lilburn, GA 30226 (GA-2622)

Joanna M. (GA-2722)

JOANNA M. (NW GA) (#57)

Member: IFGE

39, 6', 147, blond hair, blue eyes, TV, married. Busy professional just now making the time to pursue my feminine side. Life-long TV. Almost passable. Interests include the outdoors, photography stills or video, music, travel, and people. "Want to meet new friends, GG's, TV's, TS's for correspondence, photo exchange, and personal/social relationships. Travel."

Joanna Monit, P.O. Box 490983, Atlanta GA 30349 (GA-2722)

Frances D. (GA-2952)

FRANCES D. (GA) (#58)

6', 200, 45, BiWM. "My wife is supportive, but does not participate. I have been in the closet since, I started dressing as a pre-teen. Long to meet others in a similar situation. Into fulfilling fantasies and making special friends. I enjoy everything feminine."

Frances D. (GA-2952)

Melissa T. (GA-3047)

MELISSA T. (GA) (#58)

Attractive MWM, 40, 5'11", 14, easy going, adventurous, and understanding. Wife knows, but doesn't encourage. "I work hard to attain the total feminine look. Use heels, lingerie, corsets, and makeup to achieve transformation. Want to correspond with TV's, TS's, and couples. Answer all who send photo."

Melissa T. (GA-3047)

KAREN AMBER (AL) (#58)

Member: Montgomery Medical.

M-F TS, 37, 6', 155, brown hair and eyes. "Just starting out. Doing electrolysis, hope to start hormones soon. Interested in corresponding and meeting TS's and genetic famales, especially in the Atlanta area, to talk shop, and to help me perfect my feminine self. Send photo if possible. Discretion assured. Will answer all sincere letters."

Karen A. (GA-3081)

FLORIDA (320- 340-)

Linda S. (FL-0938)

LINDA SCHREIBER (SE FL) (#56)

Very recent widower, hetero TV. University professor, 6', 63, size 16-18, reddish hair. Loves shopping, quiet dinners, long talks, picnics, theater, and classical music. "Looking for a dear friend to share life's experiences and to meet en femme from time to time. Still need help passing but getting better. Can travel. Being Linda totally fulfills and enriches me. Let's correspond and meet."

Linda S. (FL-0938)

Petra D. (FL-1314)

PETRA D. (FL) (#57)

Member: Sigma Epsilon Chapter

Mid-thirties, married to supportive wife with one daughter. "Recently came out, but believe in the importance of wider CD community. Just moved to north Florida and want to communicate with others. My interests include photography, computers, soccer, pretty clothes, and projecting my inner femininity

outwardly."

Petra D., P.O. Box 3426, Tallahassee, FL 32315 (FL-1314)

Vanessa B. (FL-1396)

VANESSA (C FL) (#58)

Member: Central FL Sisters, Southern Belles

45, 5'5", 150. Interested in meeting with other sisters, and going to various outings/ clubs with my sisters. "I have accepted my feminine self. Can't get enough of Vanessa. Would like to be more passable so as to go to straight places."

E.B., P.O. Box 1076, Venice, FL 34284-1076 (FL-1396)

Samie B. (FL-1793)

SAMIE DIANNE B. (SW FL) (#56)

Widower, 63, 5'8", 160. "I cross-dress whenever possible, & wear lingerie all the time. I have been a closet cross-dresser for 30 years with 2 wives and several women friends. I wore the dresses and they wore the slacks. Now I want out of the closet."

Samie B. (FL-1793)

Cynthia S. (FL-1848)

CYNTHIA SILVA (FL) (#57)

Member: Tri-Ess.

SWM, hetero CD, 60's, 5'9", 200 lbs. Interested in working with my computer and amateur radio, VHF mobile, dressing whenever possible. "Would like to meet or correspond with other hetero CD's, TV's, and understanding GG's for femme talk, improving my femme personality and appearance, and have photo sessions."

Cynthia Silva, Box 18884, Tampa, FL 33679-8884 (FL-1848)

(Elen L. (FL-2636)

ELEN L. (FL) (#57)

White, single CD, 5'6", 130, early 40's, brown eyes and brown hair, size 10. Interests include cooking, music and nature, camping and travel. Love wigs. "Would like to write and meet other CD's. Would love to go out shopping and dining dressed. Hope to go to some of the events of IFGE. Would love assistance in improving my passability."

Elen L. (FL-2636)

Michelle H. (FL-2692)

MICHELLE H. (FL) (#57)

Single, Bi TV, 5'7", 135, attractive, passable, goes out often. Enjoy music, dancing, nightclubbing, friendship, romance. "Want to correspond and meet with other TV/TS's, and to date men."

Michelle H., P.O. Box 451, Dunedin, FL 34697 (FL-2692)

VANESSA S. (FL) (#57)

Member, Tri-Ess

Hetero TV, 5'7", 155, professional. Interested in reading history and mystery, avid collector of photos, articles, books, and videos on crossdressing. Also sports, music, stamp collecting and writing (have published in Femanine) and most especially dressing whenever possible as Vanessa. "My fashion favorites are party dresses and heels, heels, heels."

Vanessa S. (FL-1178)

CATHI Y. (FL) (#58)

MWM, hetero, TV, 41, 6'1", 170. "Love the feminine look, from gowns to short skirts. Enjoy meeting and corresponding with others.

Cathi Y. (FL-1393)

PHYLLIS C. (FL) (#59)

45, WM, 5'4", married. "Looking for new friends in the Tampa Bay area. Have been cross-dressing for years, mostly in private. I have an understanding wife. Enjoy high heels and that feminine feeling."

Phyllis C. (FL-1473)

JACQUELYN NOWLING (FL) (#57)

Member: Sigma Epsilon

Mid-50's, 6', 180. Interested in wine making, reading, & being 'Jacque.' "I travel FL extensively and would like to write & meet all sisters possible. Wife is very supportive and active in wives support group in Sigma Epsilon."

Jacquelyn N. (FL-2063)

Jody N. (FL-2968)

JODY N. (FL) (#57)

Member: Central Florida Sisters.

SWM, CD, 5'6", 130, 36. TS inclinations. Interested in total feminization, reading, golf, and physical fitness. "Seeking correspondence geared towards eventual meetings with understanding, attractive females, couples, and TS's. Photo please if possible."

Jody N. (FL-2968)

Elizabeth D. (FL-2972)

ELIZABETH N DOUGLAS (FL) (#58)

5'7", 145, 36, ash blonde, brown eyes, quite passable. Interested in golf, race cars. "Have been crossdressing since early adolescence. Now coming out and enjoying both sides of life. Would love to meet others for shopping fun, girl talk, and help with getting out in public more comfortably."

Elizabeth N Douglas, PO Box 40012, St. Petersburg, FL 33743 (FL-2972)

LAURA O. (E FL) (#57)

Member: Crossroads, Central Florida Sisters

WM hetero TV, 46, 6', 160, passable, professional, widely travelled. "Like to be Laura as much as possible. Usually spend weekends en femme, shopping, dining, etc. Active in TV group activities. Wish to write and meet other crossdressers from all over the U.S."

Laura O., Suite 226, 2899 E.Big Beaver Rd., Troy, MI 48083 (FL-2106)

Cathy R. (FL-3007)

CATHY R. (FL) (#58)

SWM, Bi, 6', 170, a feminine closet TV. "I am an XXY feminine male. Love to correspond and share interests."

C. R., Box 604, Apopka, FL 32704 (FL-3007)

Deborah Jo B. (FL-3014)

DEBORAH JO B. (FL) (#57)

DWM, 41, 6', 160, black hair, brown eyes, M-F TS since birth. Interested in homemaking, becoming a wife, lover, partner to a warm, sensitive, caring husband. "Love to cook, sew, take care of place. Love romantics. Would love to develop friendships with other TV's, TS's, and post-ops. Some day will be my time for SRS, and I need all the help and encouraging I can, now."

Deborah J. Bando, P O Box 0206, Green Cove Spring FL 32043 (FL-3014)

KATHERINE M. (FL) (#58)

Tall, forties. Interests are many and include cooking, sailing, movies, books, and music. Love to camp and hike. Wish to correspond, perhaps meet with other cross-gendered people in Southern Florida. Look forward to your letter (and photo?).

Katherine M. (FL-2244)

HALEY TIRESIUS (FL) (#57)

Writer, interested in gender issues, clinical research, case histories, vocational issues treatment issues. "I am interested in hearing from others in FL."

Haley T. (FL-2332)

JAMIE D. (FL) (#57)

6'2", 250, WM, 46. Interests: Music, shopping, out-of-doors activity. "I enjoy dominant GG's who enjoy insisting on training me in feminine cultures and dressing me in soft feminine clothing."

Jamie D. (FL-2802)

JOAN M. (FL) (#57)

TV, 66, 5'4", single. Interested in drawing, painting, all the arts. "I am a life-long crossdresser. I like to correspond and meet other TV's or TS's in southwest FL for friendship and support."

Joan M. (FL-2821)

Susan S. (FL-3130)

SUSAN S. (FL) (#59)

MWM, 5'10", 158, CD, totally hetero, above average at all sports. Interested in collecting slips, half slips, and old crinolines. "Lifelong sense of guilt since I realized I liked to wear feminine things. As an only child, my mother wanted a girl. She encouraged me to be her 'daughter.' My pre-school years were a cross-dresser's fantasy. Looking for those who had a similar experience. Will answer all."

Susan S. (FL-3130)

PATRICIA (PATTY) T. (FL) (#57)

48, 5'5",140. Former professional, now totally self-employed. Interested in hot-air ballooning, hiking, photography, art, shopping, being dressed as often as possible. "Been dressing most of my life and only recently discovered there are others. Wife is not supportive, making it more difficult to find someone to talk with. I'd love to correspond and meet other sisters. I go out in public often and would love company."

Patricia T. (FL-2856)

MICHELLE (FL) (#57)

6'3", 200, attractive. Interested in garters, high heels, stockings. "I'm looking for friends in Ft. Myers, FL to talk to and crossdress with. Happily married heterosexual man. Looking for other TV's, TS's, women, or couples."

Michelle (FL-2887)

LINDA A. (FL) (#57)

SWM, hetero CD, 62, retired. "Love to meet people, make friends, correspond, etc. Been dressing for years. Would love to hear from people in the CFL area. Am now at a point where I can live and become the person I want to be. Please write."

Linda A. (FL-2970)

LORI DEE HARMON (FL) (#58)

5'11", 190, brown hair and eyes. Enjoy the masculine: hunting fishing, golf, football; as well as the feminine: lingerie, heels, feminine clothes, make-up . . . "Life-long TV. Wife knows, but is not supportive. Hope someday to be able to pass and to venture out in public. Enjoy the classy, feminine career look. Would like help with make-up and wig styling. Would like to hear from sisters who go on without support, and from those who have found it. Not sure about meeting you as yet."

L. Harmon, P O Box 674631, Marietta GA 30067 (GA-3105)

ALABAMA (350-369-)

Mary Jane W. (AL-2105)

MARY JANE WALKER (N AL) (#57)

Member: Tri-Ess

A young 65 years old, 5'5", 165. Widowed, lives alone. Retired. "A TG, dress about 95 percent of time. Enjoy shopping and eating out en femme twice a week. Have travelled en femme. Jazz musician. Ex-railroader. Ex-commercial artist. Originally from St. Joseph, MO. Now living in N. AL. Interested in all aspects of crossdressing, TV/TS/TG. Would like to hear from, meet others in the N.AL or GA area. Will answer to all who write."

M. Walker (AL-2105)

Linda T. AL-2779)

LINDA T. (C AL) (#56)

CD, 30. "I would like to hear from crossdressers in the Southern states for correspondence and possible meetings to learn more about the CD lifestyle. Married, wife understanding. Will answer all letters that come with photo."

L.T., P.O. Box 101421, Irondale AL 35210 (AL-2779)

ANNE ARMSTRONG (AL) (#58)

Member: Tri-Ess

70, 5'10". "Still closeted and would appreciate letters. Will reply quickly."

Anne Armstrong, P.O. Box 7331-A, Birmingham, AL 35253 (AL-1478)

RENEE' PHILLIPS (AL) (#59)

Member: IFGE.

MWM, 37, 5'11", life-long TV. Go out and have passed at times. "I enjoy being soft and gentle, as feminine as I can. I adore satin and lace, shopping, socializing, fashion, arts, travel, and girl talk. Would like to meet others with similar interests. Desire meetings or correspondence. Will answer promptly."

Renee' Phillips, P O Box 241092, Montgomery AL 36124-1092 (AL-2535)

MICHELLE STEADMAN (N AL) (#56)

Member: Tri-Ess

MWM, 36, hetero-TV, 5'9", 200 (and losing), brown eyes, brown hair. Two children, aerospace engineer/scientist. "Interested in CD for 15 years, since a Halloween party. Wife brought me out of the closet two years ago, and supports me 110%. We work on my female image together. My wife has joined the wives and S.O.'s group of Tri-Ess."

Michelle Steadman (AL-2547)

PAULA EMILY (AL) (#57)

Member: The Montgomery Foundation. TV/TS.

Paula E. (Al-2820)

TENNESSEE (370-384-)

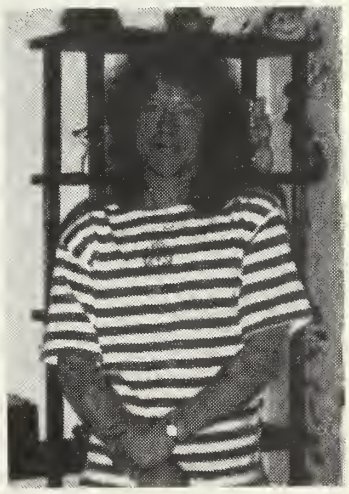
Samantha T. (TN-0934)

SAMANTHA T. (W TN) (#56)

Member: SLGF, Dixie Belles

39+, 5'8", use own long hair, very active in womanly role, deaf, taught how to speak & lip read. Interested in fashions, arts, collecting things, my lovely house. "Hope to make friends in Western/Middle Tennessee, Western Kentucky, and neighboring states. Live close to 'Land Between the Lakes' national park. Will answer all letters."

Samantha T. (TN-0934)



Crystal B. (TN-1701)

CRYSTAL DAWN BOYD (TN) (#57)

Pre-op, M-F, TS, 30's, 5'6", blue eyes. "Mostly passible. Desire to correspond with and possibly meet pre- or post-op sisters, as well as TV's and GG's who could handle as well as care for and assist a lady to be all that she was meant to be. Also interested in forming a home (possibly co-op) for TS's in the Memphis area or one of the surrounding states."

Crystal Dawn Boyd, 101461, TSP, 2-16/6, 7000 Centennial Blvd, Nashville, TN 37234 (TN-1701)

Tammi M. (TN-1732)

TAMMI MCINTYRE (E TN) (#56)

Member: Crossroads

Participant: 'Coming Together', 'Be All', Fantasia Fair

Tall, vivacious, fun-loving lady. "I love to shop. Have done some public speaking. I also love to go out dining and dancing. I would like to hear from others interested in our culture. I will try to respond to all contacts."

Tammi M. (TN-1732)

Robyn K. (TN-2744)

ROBYN K. (E TN) (#57)

Member: Tri-Ess

MWM, 44, 5'8", 136, passable; professional, with an advanced college degree; involved in counselling. Love to go shopping en femme. Hobbies include singing, guitar playing, reading, fishing and baseball card collecting. "I would like to correspond with either CD or TS individuals as well as genetic females interested in offering tips on improving one's feminine image. I will try to answer all letters."

Robyn K. (TN-2744)

RHONDA WILSON (TN) (#58)

36, 6', 190, DWM, hetero TV, muscular, but shapely when dressed. Interested in poetry, song-writing, walking, traveling, most music, dressing. "Wife does not approve. Trying to build nerve to come out of closet. Would like to hear from single or DWF who understands the need to be a whole instead of a half person. Travel extensively. Drive for a living. Will answer all who write."

Rhonda W. (TN-3032)

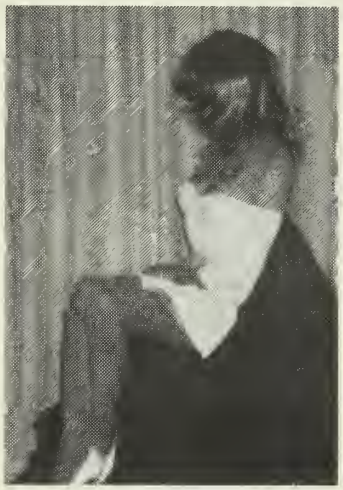
Rita H. (TN-2860)

RITA HEFELFINGER (TN) (#57)

Member: Tri-Ess, Sigma Epsilon

SWM, TV, 46, 5'6", 140, size 14, passable. Interested in photography, sewing, watching VH-1, computers, and taking short trips out of town to meet with other couples. "Living with a wonderfully supportive woman, who helps. Out of the closet three years. Go out in daytime and evening. Letter with photo gets mine. I promise to answer all."

Rita Hefelfinger, P.O. Box 732, Hermitage TN 37076-0732 (TN-2860)



Karen T. (TN-3039)

KAREN T. (TN) (#58)

DWM, 5'11", 133, 50's. "I love dressing in short skirts and heels which show off my slim figure and make me feel sexy and feminine. I'm shy and would not dress in public. In private, or in small groups, however, I would like to make new friends interested in cross-dressing. I'd especially like to meet a discreet, caring, slim TV who lives a few hours' drive from Chattanooga."

Karen T. (TN-3039)

MISSISSIPPI (386- 396-)

LESLIE GILL (MS) (#58)

Member: Beta Chi, Tri Delta Chi

MWM, 35, 5'9". "I want to correspond with other CD's from MS and LA. Will answer all correspondence. I pass well."

Leslie G. (MS-2138)

Leslie Gi. (MS-2138)

KENTUCKY (403- 427-)

Linda B. (KY-2001)

LINDA BUTEN (KY) (#57)

Member: Crossport, IFGE Board of Directors.

Participant: Be All, Coming Together.

MWM TV, 6', 180. "Been in public for years, and understand self and others well. Wife and children know, understand and love Linda as an extension of my personality. Enjoy dating tall, well-mannered gentlemen who know how to treat a lady to the finer things in life."

Linda B. (KY-2001)

Laura P. (KY-2843)

LAURA RENEE PIERCE (KY) (#57)

Member: Cross-port

MWM with TS desires, 43, 5'6", 170, blue eyes, brown hair. Interested in computers, cooking, fashion, photography, learning more about make-up, hairstyling, dancing, and being a lady. "I wear feminine clothing exclusively. I would like to meet TV's and TS's for friendship, support, information exchange, and to discuss everything from our dreams, fears, and endless obstacles."

Laura Renee P. (KY-2843)

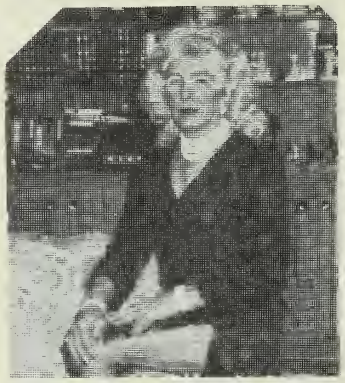
PATTI HALL (KY) (#58)

Member: IXE.

"Hello! I am a person in my mid thirties exploring and enjoying the beauty of womanhood. My other interests include folk music and dance, vegetarian cooking and, peacekeeping. I welcome correspondence from my sisters, and I occasionally think of starting a TV/TS support group in the Louisville area. I look forward to hearing from you.

Patti Hall, PO Box 7224, Louisville, KY 40257 (KY-2035)

OHIO (434- 457-)



Michelle M. (OH-0954)

MICHELLE M. (S OH) (#62)

Member: Paradise, Cross-Port, Alpha Omega.

Hetero married crossdresser, 5'9", 170, educated, friendly. Married 15 years to an "A" wife who accepts and helps. An original organizer of Paradise. "I enjoy crossdressing, hi-heels, 'girl talk', and picture-taking sessions. Needs help to enhance feminine voice. Interested in meeting other married crossdressers in SW Ohio."

Michelle M. (OH-0954)

Amanda L. . (OH-1670)

AMANDA LYNN (OH) (#59)

Member: Paradise Club

SWM Bi-TV, still in closet and need friends. Would especially like female to help and build a lasting relationship. "I smoke and am a social drinker. I bowl, golf, and enjoy the quietness of fishing. I am interested in hormone treatment. Enjoy all fem clothing, but get into looking slutty (sorry). PLEASE, no photo collectors. Only sincere people need to reply."

Amanda L. (OH-1670)

Catherine A. (OH-1770)

CATHERINE L. ANDREWS (OH) (#56)

Member: Transpitt.

Participant: Be All, Lambda Ball

MWM CD, 5'7", 170, 45. "As a life-long CD I have accepted myself for 'who I am'. I enjoy meeting new people and corresponding. Deeply committed to the IFGE. I enjoy outreach programs and working for the good of our entire community."

Catherine A. (OH-1770)

TONI H. (OH) (#57)

Athletic TV from the Columbus area. "If your closet is deep enough for two, write, and let's talk it over. Security is my password."

Toni H. (OH-1066)

KIMBERLY SUZANNE G. (SW OH) (#59)

"Thirty-four-year-old cross-dresser interested in improving all aspects of feminine style. Hope to meet intelligent, interesting people to help with new behavior. GG's, TV's, TS's all welcomed. Inexperienced, but willing to learn. Will try to answer all who write."

Kimberly S. Graycheck, P O Box 751632, Dayton, OH 45475 (OH-1628)

CAMILE M. (NE OH) (#56)

Hetero TV, 47, 5'10", 160, med brown hair, works as a salesperson. Enjoys athletics, golf, reading, movies, good food, travel, & shopping. "Still in closet. Want to meet TV's & TS's to go out with and share myself with. Love everything feminine. Would like to meet a couple to help in making me more feminine."

Camile M. (OH-1721)

MARY R. (OH) (#58)

Hetero, SWM, 35, CD, 12T, long brown hair, green eyes, gentle, passive, and very shy. Interested in fashions, cooking, shopping, and everything feminine. "Would love to hear from any genetic woman. My goal is to be in total role reversal with a sincere woman who understands my feelings, and who appreciates a male who dresses in feminine fashions."

Mary R. (OH-1731)

MARILYN CRISTI (NE OH) (#56)

Member: Paradise Club, IFGE.

Participant: Chrprsn 1991 'Be All'

Married, 6', 210, B.A. psychology and theater, graduate studies in counseling and sociology. Interested in going out, public speaking, dance, old movies. "Researching EOE rights for CD's. Please send a brief summary if you were either hired, fired, or discriminated against because of CD. Info submitted in any personal detail will be held

confidence. Send return address."

Marilyn Cristi, P.O. Box 33496, Cleveland, OH 44133 (OH-1919)

Susan M. (OH-2053)

SUSAN M. (N OH) (#57)

Member: Tri-Ess. Alpha Omega.

Divorced, hetero CD. 51, 6.5', 185. "Enjoy fishing, camping, old movies, and helping youngsters in Little League Baseball. Dress 2-3 times a week, still in closet. Want to correspond with hetero CD's in the Huron-Erie County area. If you are still in closet, and frustrated, Sue would make a great girlfriend. Discretion expected."

Susan M. (OH-2053)

Jamie D. (OH-2140)

JAIMIE DOUGLAS (OH) (#58)

Single crossdresser, 5'10", 155, 26. Interested in fitness, shopping, music, sports, and sexy clothing. "Would like to correspond with other CD's and possibly get together with crossdressers in the Central Ohio area. I'm looking forward to hearing from you."

Jaimie D. (OH-2140)

Laura W. OH-2406)

LAURA WHITE (NE OH) (#56)

Member: Paradise

MWM, hetero TV, 6'2", 175, blue eyes, 40, very feminine appearing. Enjoys aerobics, travel, reading. "I have been out of the closet for 3 years. Prefer to dress as a career woman. Love to meet with TV's in NE OH area. Will correspond with all of similar interests. Please include photo."

Laura W. (OH-2406)

Tina E. (OH-2424)

TINA E. (SW OH) (#56)

Single TV, 5'10", 145, early 30's. "I love music, theater, photography and sports. I love dressing pretty and feminine. I especially love high heels. I'm looking to correspond with TV's, TS's and women who love feminine attire. I've finally accepted myself and I am happy to be a TV. I'm sincere and caring. I'd love to be your girlfriend, so write me and maybe we could get together."

Tina E. (OH-2424)

Jannie A. (OH-2512)

JANNIE ABEILLE (OH) (#56)

Member: Crystal Club, IFGE.

Single, hetero cross-dresser, mid-twenties, open, caring. Interested in sci-fi, humor, world issues, technology, bicycling, and being a complete person. "I've become very happy the past two years, but still working at it. Seek sincere friendship with anyone on a non-sexual basis for mutual support and advice, especially those in North Central Ohio. Will respond."

Jannie Abeille (OH-2512)

JOANNE W. (NE OH) (#57)

MWM, 40, 5'10", 175, understanding wife. Interests include jazz, photography, fishing. "I have been crossdressing since childhood, and have an extensive wardrobe. I love dressing, and would like to meet and correspond with other girls. So, let's exchange photos and letters, and maybe get together."

Joanne W. (OH-1941)

GLORIA C. (SW OH) (#57)

MWM, 47, 5'10", 220, blue eyes, brown hair. Interested in computers, flying & building aircraft, amateur radio, square dancing, scuba diving, & forced crossdressing. "Want to meet sincere friends, GG's & TV's for friendship. Non-supportive wife. Want to meet aggressive people, very eager for acceptance."

Gloria C. (OH-1993)

Wayne L. (OH-2671)

WAYNE L. (E OH) (#57)

Single male, 30, country boy, outdoorsy type of guy. Enjoy motorcycling, nature walks, travelling, music. "Would like to correspond and later meet with TV/TS's, 18-35, for understanding and supportive friendship and possible relationship. I'm discreet and sincere."

W.K., P.O. Box 282, Bellaire, OH 43906 (OH-2671)

Marjorie M. (OH-2710)

MARJORIE MILLER (NE OH) (#57)

Member: Paradise Club

SWM, 5'7", 165. Interested in photography and working on cars. "Dressing off and on since a child. Go out driving, and take short walks dressed. Alone and nervous when I'm out. Would like to meet someone in SW Cleveland area to dress and go out with. I'm somewhat passable, though afraid to go out in daylight."

Ms. Marjorie Miller, P.O. Box 44006 Biddulph Rd., Brooklyn, Ohio 44144 (OH-2719)

Catherine M. (OH-2877)

CATHERINE MICHALEK (OH) (#57)

"I love shopping for my wardrobe. I have a collection of books and magazines on crossdressing. I hate male clothes and don't own any. I have dressed since childhood as female. I am a full-time TV. I enjoy corresponding with TV's, and will answer all. Please send pictures."

Catherine M. (OH-2877)

Joyce S. (OH-2925)

JOYCE S. (SW OH) (#58)

Member: Tri-Ess

SWM, CD, 5'11", 180, 58 years young. Interested in reading, music, gardening, traveling. "I go out dressed about once a week--to movies, classical concerts, and shopping. I want to meet other CD's and TS's to share these activities and to gain some help in being more feminine. I will answer all letters as soon as possible."

Joyce S. (OH-2925)

Shirley M. (OH-3111)

SHIRLEY MOST (OH) (#58)

Member: Crossport, but too far away to attend meetings.

SWM, 38, 5'4", 135, auburn hair, brown eyes. Interested in computers, fishing, and just being a girl. "Would love to correspond with and meet other TV's in Canton/New Philadelphia area. Have yet to meet any local TV's. Would love to trade girl talk and size ten clothes. Picture would be nice. Want to explore all aspects of being a woman."

Shirley Most, P O Box 6044, New Philadelphia OH 44663 (OH-3111)

LAURA STEVENS (N OH) (#56)

SWM, 45, college educated professional. Enjoys restoration of antique cars, jazz, walks on the beach, good food & travel. "I'm seeking friendship, photo exchange, correspondence and possible meetings with TV's & TS's who can pass in public. Long range relationship with the right person is a possibility."

Laura S. (OH-2407)

MEGAN S. (NE OH) (#57)

WM, 5'11", 230, from Lake County. Interested in astronomy and flying. "Just coming out, and would like to find others in my area."

Megan S. (OH-2678)

JENNY WILLIAMS (NE OH) (#57)

5'11", 175, hazel eyes, brown hair, bi SW TV. Interests include the outdoors, photography, new age music, spiritualism, UFO's. "I'm searching for TV's TS's and

understanding women for friendship, support, and assistance in perfecting my feminine side. Possible roommate available if a lasting friendship comes about. I'm looking forward to coming out of the closet soon. ALL replies answered! I'm serious, aren't you?"

Jenny W., 23146 Lorain #171, Cleveland OH 44070 (OH-2714)

Julie G. (OH-3117)

JULIE S. GILBERT (SW OH) (#59)

SWM, TV, 35, 5'8". Interested in new age music and meeting new people. "I am warm and caring, well adjusted and friendly. My passion is getting all dolled up in short, full petticoats and pretty party dresses to enjoy quiet romantic evenings. Would love to date sincere, discreet gentlemen, and meet TV's who love dressing in petticoats, aprons, and ultra-feminine outfits. Can travel."

Julie G. (OH-3117)

JILL BUZA (OH) (#57)

Member: Paradise

SWM, pre-op TS, 5'9", 145, brown hair, blue eyes. "Interested in corresponding with other TS's (pre- and post-op) to share matters of mutual interest."

Jill Buza, P.O. Box 16063, Rocky River, OH 44116 (OH-2883)

MELISSA E. DAHON (OH) (#57)

MWM, Bi, TV, 47, 6', 175, self-employed artist. Active in the sixties, trying again in the nineties. Wife totally unaccepting. Interested in high fashion, fine dining, music, environmental issues, quiet evenings with someone special. "Creative, vivid imagination, feminine nature. Hoping to share my though with other TV's/TS's. Will consider dating tall, slim, sensitive males, who know how to treat a lady with respect."

Melissa D. (OH-2904)

PATRICIA B. (OH) (#58)

Member: Tri-Ess, Alpha Omega Chapter.

Attended: Be All 1991.

MWM, 65, 5'10", 160, retired customer service manager. Interested in dressing and being a woman, being outdoors walking and hiking, photography, and reading. "Found I was a CD a few years ago. Didn't realize what was different about me all those years. Wife knows, is trying to accept and be supportive, but it's not going well. My five children do not know. Help! Am going back into closet."

Patricia B. (OH-3026)

JENNY R. (OH) (#59)

6', WM, 135, blue eyes. Interested in long walks, motorcycles, and learning to pass. "I am a novice CD who would like some friends for mutual support and possible excursions outside our closets."

Jenny R. (OH-3118)

INDIANA (463-479-)

Yvonne c. (IN-1009)

YVONNE COOK (IN) (#99)

IFGE Director of Operations, IFGE Board of Directors, Chmn Finance Committee.

Member: Lifetime member IXE.

Awards: IFGE Trinity Award, 1991.

Friendly and sincere individual who enjoys all people who are involved in gender issues.

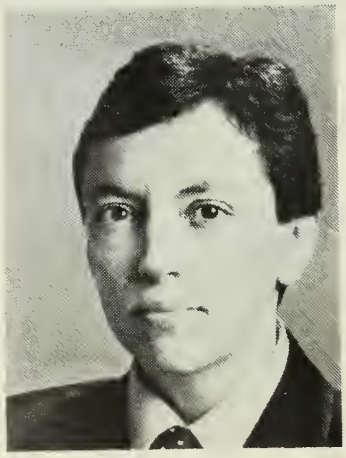
Yvonne C. (IN-1009)

Michelle M. (IN-1696)

MICHELLE MICHAELS (C IN) (#56)

MWM TV, 40, 6'1", 200, 40, 3 children & supportive wife. "Spent 25+ years in the closet with guilt, shame, & confusion. Drank & drugged to kill the pain of living. Clean & sober for 9 years. Today's struggles are centered around acceptance, self esteem and balance. Interested in opening dialogue & forming friendships with anyone on the same spiritual journey."

Michelle Michaels, Box 8091, Richmond, IN 47375 (IN-1696)



Dan R. (IN-1802)

DAN RILEY (IN) (#99)

Member: IXE

Female CD, 40. Sincere, caring individual. Interested in corresponding with other female-to-male CD's/TS's. Enjoys hiking, dancing, T'ai Chi Ch'uan, talking with others and helping others "coming out."

Dan Riley, (IN-1802)

Barbara B. (IN-2324)

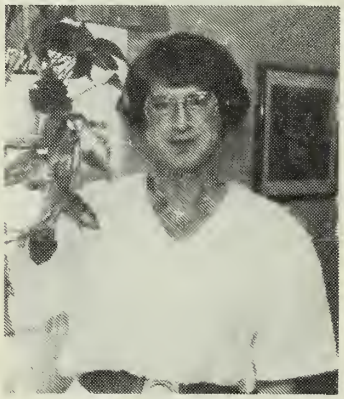
BARBARA ELLEN BERTRAND (IN) (#58)

Member: Cross-port, Chicago Gender Society

Participant: 1991 Be-All

TS, 5'3", 135, 35, brown hair, hazel eyes. "Finally getting together with people to help me through transition. Would like to correspond and meet with TS's and TV's to get a small local group started. I enjoy sci-fi, Roman and Greek art, archeology, and history and ancient civilizations.

B. E. Bertrand, P.O. Box 728, New Albany, IN 47151-0728 (IN-2324)



Vickie M. (IN-2647)

VICKIE MANSFIELD (C IN) (#57)

Member: IXE, CGS.

Participant: IFGE Denver, Be All '91.

TS, young 48, 6' and graceful. "I am working to transition in my current job, now living 3-4 days as my real self. I am active in the Catholic Church and in MSIA, ministering to the gender community. I enjoy cooking, dancing, fine wines, good conversation, and will do my best to answer all letters."

Vickie Mansfield, P.O. Box 29408, Indianapolis, IN 46229-0408 (IN-2647)

KAREN M. (C IN) (#57)

Member: IXE.

SWM, 41, 6', 168, professional, attractive, personable, and fun. Interests include reading, especially history; languages - fluent in four; and of course, perfecting my femininity. "Trying to integrate Karen into a very busy life. Looking for friends in the community for support. I'm especially interested in meeting more women accepting of my qualities and quirks."

Karen M. (IN-0807)

Jamie S. (IN-2789)

JAMIE STONE (IN) (#57)

Member: IXE, Cross Port, IFGE.

6', 150, 40, brown hair and eyes, TV with TS desires. Interested in photography, biking, reading, music, dressing, good food and conversation, and romantic movies. "Looking forward to meeting and corresponding with other TV's and TS's."

Jamie S. (IN-2789)

Gloria C. IN-2872)

GLORIA C. (SE IN) (#57)

Single TV, 33, 5'9", 160, brown hair and eyes. "In the closet all my life. Live alone in a small town. Like to dress pretty and wear high heels when I night-drop bills. Interests include auto racing, gardening, fishing, all outdoors, photography, dressing, and shopping. Want to start getting out and meeting other TV/TS friends to correspond and have girl talk with. I'm lonely! Please write. Free to travel in area."

Gloria Ann C. (IN-2872)

DEBORAH ANNE K. (IN) (#58)

Member: IXE, Tri-Ess

MWM, TV, 50, 5'9", size 18. Interested in gardening, boating, bowling, handgun and rifle target-shooting, computers, cooking. "My wife is aware but has no further interest. I am a stay-at-home type person, quiet, and rather bashful. I would still like to meet others and will try to answer any correspondence."

A. Kinsey, P.O. Box 550, Roanoke, IN 46783 (IN-2011)

KRYSTLE C. (IN) (#59)

Member: IFGE.

Hetero CD, 49, 5'7", 140, small-boned (look 39). "Raised as a girl for seven years by mother. Hair was curled nightly, and was given home permanents. Slept in night-gowns. Especially love beauty shops, make-up,

beautiful night-gowns, and shopping. Seek relationship with a real woman who likes the soft side of a man, and can help me feel better about myself. I am sincere and affectionate."
Krystle C. (IN-2312)

RIKKI B. (C IN) (#59)
Bi TV/TS, 35. "Shy and lonely emerging transsexual needs understanding friends to help with my transformation."
Rikki B., P.O. Box 1962, Anderson, IN 46014 (IN-2578)

KATHY ANN M. (W IN) (#56)
Member: IXE.
Nice-looking TV. 6', size 18, dark-haired lady from the Terre Haute area. "I would enjoy meeting other TV's, and dating men who would enjoy going out with a sexy lady. I like sitting and chatting about the wonderful TV lifestyle. I also like pleasing my dates."
Kathy Ann M. (IN-2651)

DANA S. (IN) (#57)
SWM, 5'8", 145, 29, attractive, businessman, entrepreneur, straight, and very discreet. Interested in sports, movies, history, the arts, and aerobics. "Enjoy meeting transsexuals. I find them fascinating, and very enjoyable company. Have crossdressed myself merely for the thrill of it. Would enjoy correspondence."
Dana S. (IN-2945)

Michelle H. (IN-3099)

MICHELLE H. (IN) (#59)
Single TV, TS tendencies, 35, 6', 180, blue eyes, brown hair.
Interested in music, Star Trek, football, lingerie, breast development. "In and out of the closet the last few years. Would like to correspond with other TV's and TS's. Very interested in development on hormones and in trading pictures and letters. Will respond to all who write."
Michelle H. (IN-3099)

MICHIGAN (480- 499-)

ROBERT K. (SE MI) (#57)
Single male, 5'8", 170, 28, educated. "I would like to correspond/meet an ultra-feminine, pre- or post-op TS. I appreciate a creative mind as much as an attractive face and figure. Enjoy travel, tennis, skiing, movies, fine food, and stimulating conversation."
Robert K. (MI-2002)

JAMIE C. (W MI) (#55)
Member: Tri Ess, Crossroads, IME
White, married, 35. "Would like to hear from others in the Battle Creek MI area."
Jamie C. (MI-2410)

Terri S. (MI-0476)

TERRI SUZANNE SCOTT (MI) (#57)
Member: Crossroads
Participant: 'Be All'
Personable lady who enjoys life and grows more confident in her feminine being every day. Life's goal is to become an active member of society as a woman. Actively working towards that goal. "I'm interested in correspondence only with other women who have accepted themselves and are working towards similar goals."
Terri Suzanne Scott, P.O. Box 728, Birmingham, MI 48012 (MI-0476)

Milesa P. (MI-0976)

MILESA PHAR (MI) (#56)
Member: Crossroads, Paradise
Participant: 'Be All'
Past President (Crossroads), Editor (Crossroads Chatter), and Board member (Crossroads). Married TV. Enjoys photography, writing. Lecturing at medical schools and universities on cross-dressing. Have produced audio tapes on wives & TV's. Crossroads outreach chairperson.
Milesa Phar, P.O. Box 196, Garden City, MI 48135 (MI-0976)

Jennifer N. (MI-1165)

JENNIFER ANN NELSON (SE MI) (#57)
Member: Crossroads
5'11", 160, size 14, with brown hair and blue eyes. "Cherish time spent as Jennifer. Am just getting to know myself, and understand my feelings as a woman. My passion for clothes includes short skirts, silk dressing, and heels. I love to meet my sisters, and to be escorted on my travels. I will respond to your letters as best I can."
Jennifer N., P.O. Box 431726, Pontiac, Michigan 48343 (MI-1165)

Marcia T. (MI-1871)

MARCIA ANN T. (E MI) (#56)
Member: Tri Ess, Crossroads
Tri-City area very experienced TV, 5'10", 165, have passed in public for 25 years. "I love shopping and dining en femme. Would love to share experiences with other sisters. Love to correspond, and guarantee immediate reply to any who write. Happy to advise any who need help."
Marcia Ann T. (MI-1871)

Christine H. (MI-2803)

CHRISTINE H. (SE MI) (#57)
5'6", 32, TV, blue-eyed, blond. "Interested in meeting femme sisters in S.E. MI area or surrounding areas. I would like to make new friends and build lasting relationships. Anyone interested in corresponding with me is welcome to write."
Christine H., P.O. Box 888, Wayne, MI 48184 (MI-2803)

DENISE BEACH (C MI) (#56)
TS, 5'8", blond hair, blue eyes, 41, single. Enjoys movies, shopping, & warm conversation. "I would like to correspond with TV/TS in Michigan area. I am very friendly and shy, but I have significant emotional problems."
Denise B. (MI-2483)

Michelle F. (MI-2853)

MICHELLE F. (MI) (#57)
WM TV, 5'10", 175, early 30's. "I am new to crossdressing. I like dressing pretty and feminine, especially in silk and heels. Interests include skiing, scuba, and most sports. Still in the closet but with help from a special wife I am trying to get out in public. Would like to hear from other sisters who have some suggestions on becoming more feminine."
Michelle F. (MI-2853)

Julia M. (MI-2936)

JULIA M. (MI) (#58)
MWM, 6'2", 175, 33, hetero TV, attractive, successful professional who is just "coming out." Interested in reading, photography, and staying fit. "My wife has no knowledge. Want to develop female self before introducing her to my family. Enjoy the elegant look. I am looking for friendship and support and hope to become a caring girlfriend."
Julia M. (MI-2936)

RENEE B. (SW MI) (#56)
41, hetero, white, 5'8", 170. Hormones 2 years. Brown hair/blue eyes. Married to supportive wife, 2 children. "I've been dressing for over thirty years. I've been out dressed on several occasions with my wife, but not nearly enough to satisfy my needs. Would like to meet with other married couples for correspondence, possible meeting."
Renee B. (MI-2575)

RANDI N. (SE MI) (#56)
Member: Crossroads.
Bi WM, 5'9", 170, brown hair/eyes. "TV since age ten. Wife supports fully. Would like to hear from others in my area."
Randi N., P.O. Box 46100, Mt. Clemens, MI 48046 (MI-2581)

MARSHA K. (SE MI) (#57)

MWM, hetero CD, 6'2", 218, 42, frosted or red hair, triple pierced ears. "Enjoy golf, boating, travel, and having a good time. Love dressing and going out. Passions are pierced earrings, shoes, and good looking clothes in spite of size. Have just started going out. Would like to hear from other sisters, especially those in the MI area, and meet and go out if interested."

Marsha K. (MI-2719)

R. LYNNE (S MI) (#56)

Hispanic, 5'5", 135, 29. Enjoys cycling, movies, music, dancing, concerts, cards, gambling. "I would like to meet a TV/TG/TS from the Lansing area for support and friendship."

Lynne, P.O. Box 27514, Lansing MI 48909 (MI-2745)

ELIZABETH MICHAELS (MI) (#57)

Member: Crossroads

5'11", 165, 35, dark hair, blue eyes, MWM. Interested in gourmet cooking, music, sports, fine wine. "I would love to be a woman. I have just recently started to explore the woman I have always been. I need a lot of help on make-up and clothing. I would love to have some girlfriends that I could talk to."

Elizabeth M. (MI-2831)

LYNN MARIE DAVIS (MI) (#58)

SWM TV, tall. "Enjoy moments spent as a woman. Mostly in the closet. Seek friends with whom I can comfortably step out of the closet. Travel widely, sometimes at a moment's notice. Warm and caring. You can never have too many friends. Please write. Will answer all."

Lynn Marie Davis, PO Box 431855, Pontiac, MI 48343 (MI-2980)

CINDY F. DINSER (MI) (#58)

Member: Crossroads, IME.

Attended eight Be Alls.

"Been with Crossroads eight years on the Board, Welcoming Committee, Be All Committee, Outreach. For information, send SAE."

Cindy F. Dinser, P O Box 651, Whitmore Lake, MI 48189 (MI-3010)

SANDY M. (MI) (#58)

Member: IFGE.

"Would like to meet and date woman in 30's (no TV or TS) who can accept and appreciate a sincere, loving, 6', 180 lb., blond, athletic man who happens to enjoy private crossdressing. After two failed marriages, only most sincere person who is looking for an intimate relationship should respond. Should be athletic and love it: bike, tennis, etc."

Sandy M. (MI-3015)

JUDITH ASHBY (MI) (#58)

Member of IME.

Single TV with TS tendencies, passes well, 5'6". Interested in shopping for women's clothes, reading, feminine conversation, travel. "I would like to meet or correspond with anyone, male or female, who likes wearing women's clothes, or who would like to try it. Am experienced and could help those just starting, or those coming out of the closet. That's not a fun place to be."

Judith A. (MI-3079)

IOWA (500-528-)

Karen C. (IA-1170)

KAREN CASEY (IA) (#57)

Member: Tri-Ess, Iowa Artistry

MWM, 49, 6'4", 215, married 23 yrs. Interested in photography, cooking, reading, music, chess. "I hope to correspond with some interesting sisters, perhaps develop some new lifetime friendships."

Karen C. (IA-1170)

Alisha P. (IA-2071)

ALISHA P. (IA) (#57)

6', 145, brn hair, blue eyes, 40, size 10, shoe size: 10 wms, married with two young boys, white, hetero TV. Interested in jazz rock, fine art, geology, scuba, skiing, sewing. "Love evening and bridal dresses, tight corsets, high heels. Life long TV, still in the closet. Venture out rarely, but travel frequently, especially to the Chicago area and Atlanta. Discreet letters with photo will be answered with same."

Alisha P. (IA-2071)

Janet B. (IA-2091)

JANET BAKER (IA) (#57)

WM, 39, 175, 5'11". Artist. Interests include ceramics, prints, painting, gardening, animals, archeology, erotica, metal and wood working. "Would like to meet new friends with similar interests."

D.R., P.O. Box 334, Ankemy, IA 50021 (IA-2091)

WISCONSIN (530-548-)

Linda A. WI-0529)

LINDA LEE ATHIE (WI) (#59)

TS, 5'7", 165-175, blue eyes, brown hair or whatever color wig I decide to wear. Born August 1949. Interested in all things feminine, history of WW 2, war gaming, and photography. "I wish to correspond with anyone who wishes to write to me, and to contact those to whom I have written in the past. I wish correspondence, no personal meetings. I do answer all."

Linda Lee Athie, Box 340421, Milwaukee, WI 53234 (WI-0529)

Kathy K. (WI-2234)

KATHY KLINE (WI) (#58)

42, single male. "I've been dressing since 10 years old. Love music, karate, shopping and movies. Would like to meet female who can accept what I am. Will correspond with other sisters."

Kathy K. (WI-2234)

Patricia P. (WI-2825)

PATRICIA P. (WI) (#57)

TV, 26, 5'8". Interested in music, playing guitar, dancing, skiing, reading. "Coming out of the closet, thanks to my girlfriend. Currently, I dress only at home. However, any tips on becoming passable as a female are deeply appreciated. I would love to correspond with other TV's, TS's, and couples who are sincere, caring, and supportive for friendships. Moving to Boston mid-1991."

Patricia P. (WI-2825)

MONICA MARTIN (SE WI) (#56)

White, married, "lingerie lover," mid-fifties, looking for pen-sisters, and/or meeting, to share our femme side together. "My first and main love is lingerie. I have been crossdressing since I was 12 years old. With each year that goes by, I enjoy myself more and more. I have lots to share with you, so please write soon. Please send pictures if possible."

Monica M. (WI-0995)

PAULA M. (W WI) (#57)

Member: IFGE, Tri-Ess National, Chi chapter (Chicago)

Participant: 'Be All', Holiday En Femme

MWM, CD, 74, 5'5", 160. Retired university professor. Artist (painter), musician; terminal and advanced degrees in both. "Blessed with happy marriage to fully accepting, wonderfully supportive wife. We travel everywhere around the country as two women. No problems - we love it! Correspondence invited."

Paula M. (WI-2036)

JANET LYNN H. (WI) (#58)

Member: Tri-Ess, Chi Chapter

SWM, 35, professional person. Size 18/20 tall. Interested in photography, traveling, shopping for clothes and other fem items. "I love to dress up whenever possible, make-up and all. Love to hear from all who would care to write. I am not passable at this time, but am trying very hard."

Janet H. (WI-2141)

LESLEY ANN SKOJEN (WI) (#58)

SWM, TV with strong TS tendencies. 39, 6'4", 200, long brown hair, blue eyes. Sensitive, caring individual, slowly coming out. Interested in woodcraft, craftshows, meeting people, music, dancing, developing my femininity and feminine lifestyle. Correspondence and eventually meeting others of like interests. "My first listing in Tapestry. Discretion guaranteed and expected."

Lesley Ann S. (WI-3018)

MINNESOTA (550-567-)

Patti F. (MN-0735)

ST. PAUL PATTI F. (E MN) (#59)

Participant: Dream '78

5'10", 185, 44, divorced, hetero, Vietnam

veteran. Interested in modeling school, garage sales, human rights issues, church activities, and Emotions Anonymous. "Twin Cities area and out of the closet. I attend church and EA as St. Paul Patti. Live in high-rise housing, have received positive comments about my femme self. Life is too short to be spent in a closet. As Popeye said, 'I yam what I yam, and I'm glad I yam!'"

St. Paul Patti F. (MN-0735)

Ramona M. MN-0849)

RAMONA M. (E MN) (#57)

Member: CLCC, IFGE

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Shangri-La, Be All, Miss Fantasia Fair

CD/TG, 50's. "I like fashion, cooking, being with good friends. Enjoy dining out, travelling, attending functions with my sisters."

Ramona M. (MN-0849)

Vanessa S. (MN-1168)

VANESSA S. (MN) (#57)

5'11", 160, brown hair & eyes, 40, size 16, passable, hetero CD.

"Enjoy the classic, stylish look. Happily married to a beautiful, supportive wife. Finishing my degree in counseling, and intend to work exclusively with gender issues. My wife and I are devout Christians, and are willing to help other couples if we can. I love my femininity and have found that I become a much happier on allowing my femme self to emerge."

Vanessa S., Box 11771, St. Paul, MN 55111-0771 (MN-1168)

REGINA S. (MN) (#57)

White gender dysphoric, 5'8", 150, 43, celibate by choice and convictions.

Interested in libertarian politics, history, Victoriana, reading, writing, and contemplative spirituality. "Law school graduate, but have many non-legal interests. I would just like to find a few sincere friends if any exist out there. Thanks."

Regina S. (MN-0383)

KATHERINE H. (MN) (#56)

Member: CLCC, MFGE

Participant: Fantasia Fair

DWM TV with TS tendencies, mid 30's, live as a woman part time. Enjoy music, movies, theater, cooking, tennis, golf, decorating. "Love to relax and let my femme side take over. Want to make friends as Kathy. Pass. Would love to hear from you."

Katherine H. (MN-1994)

Wendy P. (MN-2193)

WENDY P. (MN) (#58)

27, 5'10", 13/14 going on 11/12, brown hair and eyes. Interested in high heels, dresses, garters and hose, woodworking, muscle cars, and Corvettes. "Enjoy dressing as often as I can. Like to meet other CD's and TV's for lasting friendships. I would love to have a traveling companion to go to a CD/TV convention. Pass, but still need. Write from anywhere. Travel some."

W. Peterson, Box 617, Stillwater, MN 55082 (MN-2193)

Karin A. (MN-2248)

KARIN ANDERSON (MN) (#58)

Heterosexual CD, 37, 5'8", 170, blond hair, blue-green eyes. Church musician, band leader, conductor, soloist, and talent agent. Thrice married, now to supportive spouse. Five children between us. Both dedicated Christians. Interested in arts, nature, history. "Passable. Have ventured into public many times with no trouble. Very shy and nervous, however. Looking for Minnesota CD friends for socializing and support in safe settings."

Karin A. (MN-2248)

STEPHANIE J. (MN) (#56)

DWM, Bi-TV. Enjoys dressing, reading, outdoor activities.

"Love being a TV. Interested in meeting and corresponding with TV's, TS's, and others for personal and social relationships. I have been dressing for over 20 years and especially love petticoats and full skirts. Discretion assured. Will answer all promptly. Photo & phone if possible."

Stephanie J. (MN-2385)

JENNIFER and ARTEMIS W. (S MN) (#57)

"Monogamous TG/TS couple, early thirties. Jenny's a bio-male living as her wondrous, womanly self. Art's a bio-female shifting out of gender ambivalence toward liberated masculinity. Jenny's interests: wicca, neo-paganism, shamanism, re-embracing her inner child. Art's interests: TG/TS advocacy and activism, literary expression of gender non-conformity and exploration. We'd like to hear from other 'out' TG/TS's in the midst of childraising."

Art and Jenny W. (MN-2738)

Diane K. (MN-3101)

DIANE KANE (MN) (#58)

MWM, hetero, CD, 26, 5'10", 150, wife supportive, but still working on acceptance. "I enjoy looking pretty and feminine. My tastes vary from sexy to conservative. Would enjoy corresponding with others like myself in MN and elsewhere. Love to write. Photo would be nice."

Diane K. (MN-3101)

JUDY KASSE (SE MN) (#57)

Married, hetero male. 260, 5'11", 52, closet CD. Likes photography, amateur radio. "I don't pass, but feel good when dressed. Will answer all correspondence."

Judy Kasse, P O Box 16143, St. Paul, MN 55116 (MN-2743)

JULIE McFADDEN (MN) (#57)

Member: CLCC

Married, 25, 6', 170, M-F TS with a very supportive wife, BA Studio Arts, Photography/Sculpture. "I love fine clothing and shoes, movies, creating works of art that stimulate others to think, and running my own small business."

Julie McFadden, Suite #158, 14350 Burnhaven Dr., Burnswill, MN 55337 (MN-2784)

MIRA LaCOUS (SE MN) (#56)

MWM, TV, 29. "Passible, tall, slender blonde with soft and pretty facial features. Been dressing and dreaming forever. Clean, discreet, and a non-smoker/non-drinker. The past year has been great for me, and am looking for much more. If you are a sincere TV/TS/GG, please write so that we may correspond and/or meet. Looking for friendship and sharing, nothing sexual. Will respond to all."

Mira LaCous, P O Box 13659, St. Paul, MN 55113 (MN-2818)

KRISTINE JOHNSON (MN) (#58)

SWM, Bi-curious TV, mid 20's, 6', 185, blue eyes. Interested in movies, computers, traveling, music, reading, and outdoor activities. "I love to shop for and wear all things feminine. Professional. Non-smoker and drug free. Would like to make friends in the TV/TS community, and with their supporters. I travel regularly, and will meet with others interested in the lifestyle. Discretion assured. Please include phone and photo if possible. Will reply to all."

Kristine Johnson, P O Box 252, Hopkins, MN 55343 (MN-3087)

SOUTH DAKOTA (570- 577-)

LINDA LEA JEFFRIES (SD) (#59)

Member of CLCC, IFGE.

5'8", 150, 44, single, never married. Interested in history, politics, jazz, baseball, cooking, and shopping. "I am a lifelong CD and TS now moving towards my eventual goal of SRS and full time life as a woman. Would like to hear from other TS's or TV's from South Dakota or SW Minnesota."

Linda Lea Jeffries (SD-2353)

NORTH DAKOTA (580- 588-)

MONTANA (590- 599-)

Tammy Y. (MT-2641)

TAMMY YOUNG (MT) (#57)

Member: LIFE, IFGE

MWM, 150, 5'7", size 16.

"Discretion required and guaranteed. Not the only TV in Montana, but it's redneck country - in the closet and will stay that way. I'd like to dress up, and be treated very tenderly, as if I were a lady, especially by a GG playing role reversal. Wife barely tolerates my CDing."

Tammy Y. (MT-2641)

Mishell W. (MT-2704)

MISHELL LYNN WOODRING (NE MT) (#56)

6'1", 145, educated, blue eyes, blonde hair M-F TS. Totally blind. Interests include sound engineering and recording (12 years experience), theater and acting, hearing from other TS's (cassette tape only, please). "Would like to start a cassette publishing company. Am upset that materials such as TAPESTRY, etc. not available on cassette tape for blind. It is not easy to find people open-minded enough to read these materials aloud for someone like me."

Mishell W. (MT-2704)

DIANA L. (MT) (#59)
Member of IFGE.
MWM, TV, 42, 185. Interested in skiing, boating and camping, reading, and science fiction. "Would like to come out of the closet, but rural Montana and career make it difficult. Wife is somewhat understanding. Would like to hear from married TV's to find out how they deal with dressing and a family. I need all the help I can get."
Diana L. (MT-3096)

ILLINOIS (600- 629-)

Naomi O. (IL-0257)

NAOMI O. (IL) (#56)
IFGE Board of Directors, Chrprsn Legal & By-Laws Committee
Member: Chi Chapter
Participant: Fantasia Fair, "Be All", 'Coming Together'
Awards: Miss Fantasia Fair, Miss Congeniality
"Chicago attorney who loves the better things in life. Enjoy travel, photography, food, fashion and jewelry. active in mid-west CD activities. Have appeared on radio and television in Chicago, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Boston, Philadelphia, and Minneapolis."
Naomi O., Box 342, Chicago, IL 60690 (IL-0257)

Eve B. (IL-0523)

EVE B. (IL) (#56)
IFGE Board of Directors, Chr. Ed. Resources Committee
Member: Chi Chapter, Outreach, CGS
Participant: Fantasia Fair, 'Be All', 'Coming Together'
Awards: Miss DREAM, FF Miss Congeniality, FF Miss Best Dressed, Miss Fantasia Fair
"Eve is an elegant fun-loving girl who 'exists' 2-3 days a week. Does many presentations with Naomi O. (IL) before professional and college audiences to help 'educate' on our lifestyle."
Eve B. (IL-0523)

Gloria RW. (IL-0613)

GLORIA WRIGHT (IL) (#57)
Member: Tri-Ess (vice-president), CGS (secretary)
5'3" tall, 38 years young. Interested in writing, dancing, singing, jogging, karate. "I've been a terrible correspondent lately because of time constraints, but I'll attempt to write to those I can."
G. Wright, P O Box 172, Gurnee, IL 60031 (IL-0613)

Geri W. (IL-1400)

GERI WATERS (IL) (#59)
Member and vice-president of St. Louis Gender Foundation, assistant representative to MAGGIE.
Hazel eyes and natural long hair. Good-natured Leo. Enjoys art, writing, music, cars, home decorating, and good friends. "TS looking for sisters & friends to share thoughts and get-togethers. I dress full time as a female, and am happy as such. Spouse understands and is supportive. Am looking for those who are curious and need someone to talk to. Remember, someone does care."
Geri W. (IL-1400)

Karen R. (IL-1514)

KAREN MICHELLE R. (IL) (#59)
Member: Chi Chapter
Participant: Holiday En Femme
"A couple of years older and wiser. Feeling good about who I am. I still believe that being Karen is what it's all about - now more than ever. I love to help my sisters. I've heard from so many. Hope to hear from you - yes you! I wouldn't mind letters from real girls and TS's too!"
Karen R. (IL-1514)

Tracy S. 1616)

TRACY SIKES (IL) (#59)
Tall, slim, early thirties, striving topass without question, and unsure how far to go in the transition.
Interested in photography, film, art, music, and high fashion. "I hope through this listing to make new contacts nationwide. It's time for me to decide whether to pursue a full time transition. I would especially like to hear from those who have begun or completed the path to SRS. Want correspondence and personal meetings. I'd also like to find a TS roommate."
Tracy S., P O Box 804754, Chicago, IL 60680 (IL-1616)

Michelle M. (IL-2125)

MICHELLE MAGUIRE (IL) (#61)
Officer: CIGA, Central Illinois.
Member: IFGE, CGS (Chicago), IXE (Indianapolis).
Married CD, 5'11", 1955 Scorpio, Engineer, Historian, Musicologist, Philosopher, Scientist, university graduate (thrice), intelligent, crazy realist. "Introspective observer, explorer, loner, Taoist, calm, humorous, optimist, non-smoker, sensitive, heterosexual, devoted spouse and parent. Spouse supportive, but does not participate. Seeking the Tao of transgenderism."
Michelle Maguire, P O Box 6002, Champaign IL 61826-6002 (IL-2125)

Patti W. (IL-2166)

PATTI W. (IL) (#58)
Tall, friendly, nutty!
Interested in music, sports, clothes, collecting fans and hats, hypnosis. "Enjoy dressing in exotic costumes. At other times, I enjoy passing as a grandmother. I love developing my feminine side and being treated as a woman. I would love to exchange letters, photos, and fantasies with anyone who wants a nutty girlfriend."
Patti W. (IL-2166)

Jamie H. (IL-2470)

JAMIE ELLEN H. (IL) (#56)
Member: CIGA
5'9", 174, 47, M-F TS. Brown hair and eyes. 16 going on 14. Non-supportive wife. No cigarettes, drugs, or alcohol. Interested in reading sci-fi, mystery, and war, writing, cooking, sewing, woodworking, camping, and all things feminine. "Started hormones 5/91. Would like to hear from TV's or TS's with same or different interests. Go out dressed and pass."
Jamie Ellen H. P O Box 1164, LaSalle, IL 61301 (IL-2470)

RENAE P. (IL) (#57)
6'2", 250. Interests include sailing, carpentry, trains. "A bit shy - would like to join a group, or just get together with a few friends to learn more about myself. Will answer all who write."
Renae P. (IL-1931)

TERESA BEATRICE K. (IL) (#57)
6'+, late 30's, SWM, 300 +. Interested in computer systems, chess, AD&D, science fiction, space development. "I began my journey into transvestism in order to discover why someone would want to change his/her gender and/or sex. While I am beginning to understand why, I am uncertain as to whether or not I have the need for cross-genderization."
Teresa K. (IL-1969)

Jan N. (IL-2737)

JAN NEVILLE (N IL) (#57)

Single, white, TV, 5'11", 165, 30's, blonde hair, brown eyes.

"Friendly, passable, and totally into all aspects of femininity. I love music and art, not macho activities. My happiest day was when I realized that I could no longer resist my TV yearnings and simply gave in and started dressing. I'm interested in meeting TV's with similar interests as well as men interested in dating."

Jan Neville, P O Box 8437, Northfield, IL 60093 (IL-2737)

*Priscilla B. (IL-3085_*

PRISCILLA B. (IL) (#58)

Member of Chicago Gender Society.

Attended Be All, was in fashion show.

5'11", 43, 180, married, 16, hetero, stylish, blonde TV. Interested in golf, tennis, travel, dressing up, sewing, and design. Make some of my gowns and party dresses. "Slowly coming out of the closet. Wish to correspond and exchange pictures with TV's and TS's. Wife is understanding, and we would like to contact other couples. Meetings possible. Sincere and discreet. Send photo for reply."

Priscilla B. (IL-3085)

SUE PASHEN (NE IL) (#57)

Member: IFGE

38, 5'10", 150, shy. Likes walks, dining out, movies, reading, art, science, B/D. SWM-F TS, no drugs, smoking, drinking; clean, discreet. "Have always liked women, even my feminine side. If a girl exists out there who can accept a TS with very little experience, and can teach Sue how to live a real life, even if just at home (in Chicago suburbs), please get in touch."

Sue P. (IL-2751)

LINDA F. (IL) (#58)

MWM, 5'11", 170, 50's, in closet due to job identity. Wife not accepting. Interested in baking, cooking, gardening, model railroading, geology, travel. "Dress at home only. Interested in meeting and talking to other CD's as a private support group."

Boxholder, P O Box 8751, Waukegan, IL 60079 (IL-2977)

INGRID HOLM (IL) (#57)

Awards: Miss Gay Mexico, Miss Gay Germany.

5'9", red hair, green eyes, brunette, pretty. Interested in dance, entertainment, impersonations, aerobics, yoga. "Never married. Lived as a woman since age eighteen. Very serious pre-op transsexual. Work as a female impersonator. Would like to meet guys from 18-40 in the Chicago area."

Ingrid Holm (IL-2994)

Stephanie Y. (IL-3086)

STEPHANIE ANNE Y. (IL) (#59)

DWM, 38, 6', red hair, green eyes.

Interested in shopping, golf, computers, baseball, movies, all things feminine. "I am slowly coming out of the closet and would like to meet and correspond with TV/TS/TG/GG's and others into this lifestyle. I can travel to meet, or entertain at home. Outgoing personality. Love to laugh and love. Please write."

S. Young, P O Box 312, Oak Forest IL 60452 (IL-3086)

JACKIE V. (IL) (#58)

Member: CIGA, Tri-Ess.

Attended: Coming Together in Denver, and Be All in Cleveland this year.

50's, 6', 160, self-employed, energetic, and ready to go. Interested in antique cars, meeting other CD's. "Interested in corresponding with and meeting with others in the TV community. Would also like to get to know genetic women who are supportive of the crossdressing life-style. Could lead to marriage. I an supportive of all life-styles, even though I am straight."

Jackie V. (IL-3009)

JAN HALL (IL) (#58)

MWM, 31, 5'8", 140, TV/TS, academic professional.

Interested in being female, music, baseball, public speaking, and Mac computers. "Newly out of the closet. Dying to go out in public. At present concentrating on improving my image and finding ways to ditch the male side and live as Jan full time."

Jan Hall, P O Box 6741, Champaign IL 61826-6741 (IL-3116)

MISSOURI (630- 658-)

Barbara B. (MO-0258)

BARBARA B. (MO) (#56)

Member: Tiffany

DWM, 50, 5'10", 160, hetero. Interests include music, dancing, fashion. Participant in many Poconos weekends. "Lifelong crossdresser and made peace with and accepted my feelings years. Thankfully, that time has passed, and now I look forward to meeting many new friends. Value honesty, trustworthiness, and discretion. Have met a wonderful, supportive woman."

Barbara B. (MO-0258)

Angela J. (MO-1162)

ANGELA JOHNSON (MO) (#57)

Member: St Louis Gender Foundation (formerly the St Louis Gateway Femmes)

Single, black, male TV, 5'11", 170, tall, slim, fun to be with. My interests are: Photography, travel, dressing when I can. "I enjoy socializing, going out, and dancing. I would like to meet and/or correspond with other TV's, TS's and women who understand."

Angela J., P O Box 23323, St. Louis, MO 63156 (MO-1162)

Barbara C. (MO-1913)

BARBARA ANN C. (MO) (#57)

Member: St. Louis Gender Foundation

MWM, 6'1", overweight, blue eyes. Interested in photography, writing, sports. "My wife neither understands nor accepts my crossdressing, so all done in secret. I would like to practice more, but cannot under present circumstances. Would like to hear from others in my situation for suggestions and support. Will try to answer all."

Barbara Ann C. (MO-1913)

Bernice M. (MO-2018)

BERNICE M. (MO) (#57)

Member: Crossdressers International - Tulsa, OK

Single, 5'9", brown eyes, long curly brown hair, 130; pre-op TS, 40ish. "I would like to correspond with others of like interest, and meet those in my area (SW MO and/or Tulsa OK)."

Bernice M. (MO-2018)

Sandra U. (MO-2243)

SANDRA ANN U. (SW MO) (#58)

Member: Delta Omega, Tri-Ess, Boulton & Park, SLGF

Participant: Be All, Texas "T" Party

Married to supportive spouse, 5'9", brown eyes, black hair, 65. "Spouse says I am an attractive lady. I especially love lingerie. My collection of over 200 panties is my pride and joy. I do house work and cook dressed up in my feminine attire. Free to travel any time. My supportive spouse shares my love for pretty, feminine undies."

Sandra Ann U. (MO-2243)

ALISON POWELL (C MO) (#56)

Single, hetero TV, 40, 5'8", 135. Love music, theater, movies, nature, travel, reading, gardening, kids, building, literature, anthropology, women's issues. Father. "Just coming out to friends. Dressing for 30+ years, accepting myself, loving it. Am college grad with experience in therapy, interested in gender-related issues. Still learning. Would love to meet M-F TS's or TV's for friendship."

Alison P. (MO-2766)

RITA AMORE (MO) (#58)

Member: St L G F.

MWM, 39, non-smoker, educated, professional. "Supportive and loving wife is my best friend. Highly disciplined athlete, interested in entrepreneurship, investments,

spirituality, personal challenges, feminine expression, skin care, and travel. Would like to meet other couples in the US and world-wide. Willing to host couples in our home in St. Louis. 'Destiny is not by chance, but by choice.'"

Rita A. (MO-2995)

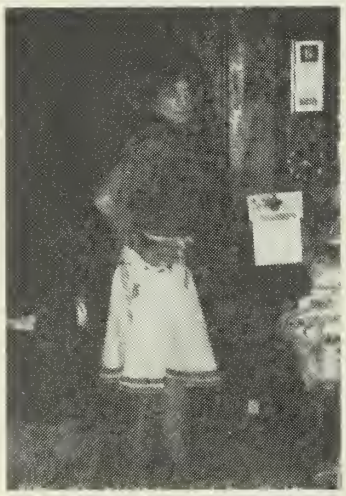
Jennifer R. (MO-3016)

JENNIFER R. RUSSELL (MO) (#58)

Hetero CD, 6', 210, brown hair and eyes.

Interested in cooking music, good conversation, fashions, make-up, developing and projecting a lady-like image. "Am a caring and sensitive individual, genuinely interested in meeting, corresponding, and sharing with sisters. Am fortunate to have a loving and compassionate wife who supports and understands my views. Am establishing a Tri-Ess group in the Kansas City area. Will answer all letters."

Jennifer Russell, c/o Tri-Ess/Kappa Gamma Mu, P O Box 98, Belton, MO 64012-0098 (MO-3016)



Kimberly T. (MO-3036)

KIMBERLY KIM T. (MO) (#58)

Member: KCCAF

SWMTV, 36, 5'8", 140, 36 27 36, 11-12, squeaky clean bi.

Interested in gardening, shopping, talking & listening. "I like to ask our closeted sisters to come out and play and enjoy our beautiful lifestyle. Have a complete femme wardrobe. Spend time in Ozarks and ride my threewheeler. Send SASE and photo for reply."

Kimberly T. (MO-3036)

KANSAS (660- 679-)

Evelyn B. (KS-0400)

EVELYN B. (E KS) (#56)

Member: CLCC, CAF

"Tall, sensitive and caring TS, passable and really into improving my feminine experiences. Serious and advanced crossdresser. Enjoy going out as much as possible, traveling to new parts of the country and broadening my feminine mind. Interested in meeting other serious crossdressers. Not into long correspondence but can help with resources in the Kansas City area."

Evelyn B. (KS-0400)

Becky C. (KS-1346)

BECKY GAIL CROSLOVE (KS) (#58)

Outgoing, fun-loving girl who takes TV's seriously and wants to help them grow within and without. Public servant 11 yrs., stamp collector, artist. "I love feminine things and writing to other TV's across the world. I started a research center to help others."

Becky C. (KS-1346)

Nancy C. (KS-2189)

NANCY COLE (KS) (#99)

Member: IFGE, Kansas City CAF, SLGF

Participant: 'Coming Together', Fantasia Fair, Texas T-Party, 'Be All'

"I have been crossdressing for years, and enjoy working with and for members of our community. I travel frequently and widely, enjoy just about everything, and do well for myself, both in my male and in my female role. Interests include reading, history, movies, current events, and, of course, fashion and beauty. (I'm a sucker for the antebellum stuff.)"

Nancy C. (KS-2189)

Kelly S. (KS-2649)

KELLY S. (KS) (#57)

Married CD, mid-30's, 5'9", 150, size 14, attractive and passable. "I love going out and being treated as a lady. I would like to hear from sincere sisters with like interests to exchange experiences, feelings, and photos. I love all things feminine."

Kelly S. (KS-2649)

GLORIA T. (KS) (#57)

34, 6', 155. Interested in philosophy, nature, camping, herbs, becoming complete. "I feel blessed to be a balanced, androgynous being, possessing feminine qualities, cursed to live among a crude, gender-harnessed, emotionally crippled society. Would love to correspond with other sisters and brothers. We are special beings. Wichita area or wherever!"

Gloria T. (KS-2857)

MARIA ANN BOLIN (KS) (#57)

SWM, 5'8", 189, brown hair and eyes.

Interested in the outdoors, reading, writing, shopping, movies. "I would like to meet and correspond with the many people in the transgender community. I love all things femme. I'd like to become more involved in the gender community. I'm really looking forward to hearing from you."

Maria B. (KS-2869)

JULIE BARNES (KS) (#57)

MWM, TV, 50, 6', 160. "Married. Wife does not know about my crossdressing. Life-long TV. I like to dress as femininely as possible. Look much younger than my age when dressed. Hope to be able to pass as soon as possible. I was finally able to admit to someone else about my dressing (my therapist). I am trying to feel good about myself."

Julie Barnes (KS-2982)

NEBRASKA (680- 693-)

JONI P. (E NE) (#56)

MWM TV, 6', 180, sensitive, caring, discreet. Interested in anything outdoors, bowling, racquetball, dancing, a good bottle of red wine. "My greatest desire is to perfect my femininity. I would love to correspond and possibly meet with passable TV or TS in E. Nebraska or W. Iowa. I need a friend to help me become a complete woman and to share and discuss this beautiful world. Please write."

Joni P. (NE-2437)

MELISSA JEAN H. (NE) (#57)

DWM, 45, 6'2", 190, life-long TV, easy going and personable. "I like myself and enjoy life. I like everything feminine, people, parties, travel, entertaining, photography, and trying anything new. I strive for Melissa's perfection, but need a woman to critique her. I'm ready to step out into the world, and would like to make friends with women, couples, TS's and other perfectionist TV's for outings and socializing."

Melissa Jean H. (NE-2742)

LAURA W. (NE) (#58)

6', 165, SWM, slim and passable. Interested in golf, racketball, and shopping. "I have not yet met another TV, but I would like to attend Fantasia Fair in October. Need to meet discrete professional person that I'll have confidence in to bring me out. I am a tall, hetero TV that has an extensive wardrobe, and I am passable. I travel, and would be interested in writing anyone who qualifies."

Laura W. (NE-2973)

LOUISIANA (700- 714-)

Lisa H. (LA-1717)

LISA HART (LA) (#56)

SWM TV, 36, slim athletic build. Attractive, successful professional. "Dress only occasionally, but go out when I do. Would like to meet female who will accept my infrequent need to relax from the self-imposed pressures of my 'type A' existence in the guise of a carefree, affable young woman. I'd also like to correspond and exchange photos with potential TV/TS friends."

Lisa H. (LA-1717)

Karen S. (LA-1717)

KAREN SCOTT (TX) (#58)

Member: Tri Delta Chi

Interested in sports, watching football. "Retired. Have very supportive fiancee.

Master's degree. Former coach. Capt. USAF. Stockbroker. Fifteen years in the merchant marine. Have dressed since teens. Would love to hear from crossdressers interested in forming a group in the area around New Orleans."

Karen S. (LA-2139)

Vicki D. (LA-2409)

VICKI DIXON (LA) (#56)

Member: Tri Delta Chi

Participant: 'Fantasy Adventure', Texas 'T' Party

MWM, 5'8", 145, 40-ish, size 10, college educated, sensitive, very passable. Enjoys shopping with wife, and dressing with style and class. Enjoys motorcycles and boating. "I'm happily married to a beautiful and supportive wife. My wife and I are devout Christians. I know who I am and have accepted it. Will answer all mail as quickly as possible."

Vicki Dixon, P O Box 77905, Baton Rouge, LA 70879 (LA-2409)

Diane B. (LA-2467)

DIANE ELAINE B. (SE LA) (#56)

Member: Tri Delta Chi

MWM, 39, 6', 160, emerging CD, currently SO does not really understand. "I would like to hear from any TS/TV/CD sincerely interested in corresponding. I promise a caring reply to all letters."

D E B, P O Box 51611, New Orleans, LA 70151-1611 (LA-2467)

JERRI N. (NW LA) (#59)

Member: Beta Chi

Participant: Texas T-Party

MWM, nearing 50, 22-24. Interested in all sports, travel, and country music. "Have enjoyed going out when I can during my travels. Would like to go out more, but am not real comfortable all the time. Travel through south and southwest. Would like hear from other hetero CD's in the area who are interested in going out."

Jerri N., P O Box 38048, Shreveport, LA 71133-8048 (LA-2521)

Dianna C. (LA-2840)

DIANE CLARK (LA) (#57)

Member: Tri Delta Chi

Hetero WM, 5'11", 150, soon to be married, size 10T. Interested in fishing, football, the outdoors. "Degreed. Would like to meet others in NW LA, E TX, and SW AK for informal get-togethers. Enjoy nice fashions and high heels. Will answer all replies immediately."

Diane Clark, P O Box 8119, Shreveport, LA 71148-8119 (LA-2840)

Alice H. (LA-2964)

ALICE HEBERT (LA) (#57)

Member: Tri Delta Chi in New Orleans

TV, 6'2 1/2", middle-aged.

Alice H. (LA-2964)

STEPHANIE S. (LA) (#56)

Member: Renaissance

Very tall, good personality, good listener, open minded and easy going. Enjoys shopping, music, travel, video/stereo equipment, fine lingerie. "I've been a TV for over 10 years and I'm always seeking the ways to refine and more fully enjoy my femininity. Want to communicate with anyone 20-40 with similar interests. Discretion assured."

Stephanie S. (LA-2545)

BILLIE F. (LA) (#57)

5'12", 170, 30, brownish blonde hair, single. Interested in fishing, astronomy, bicycling, rock-climbing. "I have been a CD with a strong TS leaning as long as I can remember. Would like to hear from and possibly meet other CD's and TS's, especially in the NW LA area. Am still fairly closeted, but I have gone out a time or two."

Billie F. (LA-2836)

ARKANSAS (716- 729-)

Stephanie (AR-1841)

STEPHENIE RENEE' (AR) (#57)

MWM, 5'8", 145, 37, brown hair/eyes. "Interested in corresponding and helping others, discussing life in general, being Stephenie. Married to a very supportive, helpful, and understanding wife. She has brought out and helped develop Stephenie into The Total Girl. Pass fairly well when out, yet always open to improvement."

S. R. Fowler, P O Box 1835, Springdale, AR 72765 (AR-1841)

Jana H. (AR-2042)

JANA H. (S AR) (#56)

Member: Beta Chi

MWM, 50ish, 5'8", 165. Enjoy golf, photography, video, flying, travel. "Can we talk? Spouse knows, helps, but not that supportive. Into full dressing six years. Made guarded public appearances. Love being dressed, feeling feminine. Love it all, from 38-C's to 4" heels. Love to share experiences, photos, and much more."

Jana H. (AR-2042)

TRACEY JOANNA (C AR) (#56)

TV, 6', 185, 29, reddish-blond hair, blue eyes. "I love dressing feminine whenever possible. My wife understands, but is not supportive. Am coming out of the closet. Considering hormones. Enjoy shopping and making new friends. Would like to join or help start a CD/TV/TS support group in central Arkansas. Please drop me a line. Will answer all letters."

T. J. Rhodes (AR-2682)

ALICIA SKOGEN (AR) (#58)

Member: GIC< Denver.

Attended: Coming Together.

SWM,26,5'9", 170, blonde, green eyes, life-long CD. Interested in music, movies, good food, outdoors, skiing, and good conversation. "Am very comfortable in both male and female roles. Would love to correspond/meet with other CD's in my area. Also looking for mature, understanding woman for friendship, fun, and possible relationship."

A. T. Skogen, P O Box 7072, Springdale, AR 72766 (AR-3035)

Alicia S. (AR-3035)

OKLAHOMA (730- 749-)

Jerri S. (OK-1830)

JERRI ELIZABETH S. (OK) (#56)

SWM TV, 6'1", 210, 37 years old - and all as a TV. Enjoys history, non-fiction, and sci-fi, music, dining out, dancing, and just being the woman that I am. "Looking for other TV/TS's and anyone to share their good times and bad times in the world. I just want to help others to grow and understand who we are and will become in the future."

Jerri S. (OK-1830)

Daphne P. (OK-2367)

DAPHNE PRESCOTT (NE OK) (#56)
Member: CDI Tulsa
TV with TS tendencies. 5'7", 130, blue eyes, slender and fairly passable. Enjoys music, writing, fashion, history, feminine lifestyle, and going out dressed. "I have been a cross-dresser since age four and am always looking for ways to improve my feminine image. Would enjoy hearing from anyone and will answer all letters."
Daphne P. (OK-2367)

Phylecia W. (OK-3006)
PHYLECIA W. (OK) (#58)
Married, hetero, 44, 5'9", 165, long brown hair, own my own business. Interested in flying, water and snow skiing, communicating, and going out dressed. "Wish to meet others from my area. Love being passable and shaved all over. Wife knows, but does not want to be involved. Want to meet men and women who like me when dressed. Write and exchange photos."
P. Weiser, P O Box 3183, Bartlesville OK 74006-3183 (OK-3006)

Georgia H. (OK-3108)
GEORGIA LEE H. (OK) (#59)
Member: Tri-Ess, Delta Omega.
MWM, 62, 5'8", 165, TV/TS. Interested in fishing, boating, home making, and outdoors activities. "Just now coming out of the closet, meeting other TV's and TS's. Retired military, but still working as a computer consultant. Wife is not supportive, but knows. Will answer all."
Georgia Lee H. (OK-3108)

TERRI SYKES (OK) (#58)
Member: Tri-Ess, Delta Omega/Dallas
Participant: Texas "T" Party, '90,'91
5'10", 155. "I would like to make contact with other CD's in the Oklahoma City area to possibly form a local Tri-Ess chapter."
Terri Sykes, P O Box 14414, Okla. City, OK 73113 (OK-1324)

TEXAS (750- 799-)

Janice R. (TX-0567)
JANICE HILARY RUPARD (S TX) (#56)
Member: Boulton & Park (co-founder), IFGE Board (Alt)
Participant: Texas T-Party (co-founder), 'Coming Together', Fantastic Adventure, '90 In 90.'
MWM TG, 5'9", 160, 18, 60's but 40. Sensitive, caring nature.
Interested in classical music, play 'big band' and jazz on sax, photography and everything feminine. Live alone. "Since retiring, I've developed my femininity. Janice goes anywhere. I shop, work, travel . . . Slow, but will answer all. Your photo will be enjoyed."
Janice Rupard, P O Box 63112, Wetmore, TX 78163 (TX-0567)

Rene F. (TX-0989)
RENE' FENNER (W TX) (#56)
Member: Tri-Ess, GCTVC, CHIC, Boulton & Park.
Participant: 'Coming Together', Texas 'T' Party, Fantastic Adventure W/E.
MWM, 58, 6'1", 200. "I go to restaurants and travel frequently as Rene'. Wife knows but is not approving. Always trying to improve feminine image. Also enjoy amateur radio and fishing. Will answer any correspondence received."
Rene' F. (TX-0989)

Jane Ellen F. (TX-1250)
JANE ELLEN FAIRFAX (E TX) (#57)
Attendee: 'Coming Together', Holiday En Femme, Texas T-Party
President, Tau Chi Chapter, '88 - '89, SEC Conference Interim Chairman, Tri-Ess Board of Directors, Coordinator, Holiday En Femme, Femme Mirror Editorial Staff.
43, 6'2", 210, chestnut hair, green eyes. Jane has been an active cross-dresser for over five years. Interests include church, sports, music, bridge, medieval English history, and Sherlock Holmes. Jane and Francis have two young sons who have known and loved "Aunt Jane" from birth. Enjoy helping new CD's and their wives.
Jane Ellen F. (TX-1250)

Laura T. (TX-1254)
LAURA TAYLOR (TX) (#58)
SWM, TV, 5'9", 170, mid-30's. "I'm just coming out and would like to correspond with and meet others who love the feminine mystique. I would love someone to share and help with make-up, wigs, etc. My goal is to be totally passable and to be treated and admired as a young woman. Will respond to all with letter and photo."
Laura T. (TX-1254)

BETTE LEE JOHNSON (N TX) (#56)
Member: IFGE Board of Directors, Chrmn Programs Committee, 'Coming Together' Staff, Dallas Chapter Tri-Ess.
Attractive TV, 50's, sensitive, caring, outgoing, and comfortable in the joys of being a woman. "I enjoy being dressed and feeling feminine. Am told I pass well. Enjoy parties with other TV ladies, and being out en-femme (with discretion). Dedicated to serving 'our' world and helping people just coming out, who may need help and advice."
Bette J. (TX-0543)

ROBIN E. (TX) (#58)
Pre-op TS. Young-looking 50ish. 5'11". Pass well. Live as a female. "Would like to hear from pre- and post-op TS's. Am slow to answer, but will try to answer all. Also like to hear from TV's and TS's in the area."
Robin Emmons, Box 11814, Fort Worth, TX 76110 (TX-1256)

Donna M. (TX-1734)
DONNA E. MOBLEY (TX) (#56)
Member: Fiesta Chapter (President), Tri-Ess Board of Directors.
Participant: 'Coming Together', Holiday En Femme.
SWM, 40's, 5'10", 150, widower. Fanatic skier/racer. Hobbies: scale model aircraft, photography. Widely traveled, college grad, former military (combat correspondent). Now freelance audio/video/TV producer (no jokes please). "Passable in public if it's dark and foggy. Travel anywhere I can get to on a tankful of coffee. Promise a reply."
Donna M. (TX-1734)

Melanie T. (TX-1866)
MELANIE THORNE (E TX) (#56)
Member: Tri-Ess.
Participant: Texas 'T' Party, Be All, Holiday En Femme, Fantasia Fair, Fantasy Adventure W/E.
Young 51 yr old CD, married to ultimate supportive SO. "Enjoy everything feminine, travel, & beautiful wife! Wife, Dr. Peggy Rudd, and I enjoy meeting & talking with TV's, TS's, TG's, in all parts of the world. Peggy is a resource to other SO's."
Melanie T. (TX-1866)

KAREN MICHELLE RUSNAK (TX) (#59)
Member: Tri-Ess
"You can't keep a good girl down--so you'll never know where I'll pop up next! Nothing has changed; being Karen is what it's all about. 'Nuf said!"
Karen Rusnak, P O Box 64980-645, Dallas, TX 75206 (TX-1514)

KIM KELLY (W TX) (#56)
Bi-TV, 5'8", 170. Enjoys spectator sports, TVism, travel. Lived in Puerto Rico 20 yrs. "Can entertain or travel. Would like to join TV group in El Paso area. Will answer all letters ASAP."
C. R. Kelly, P O Box 12113, El Paso, TX 79913 (TX-1690)

Cheryl C. (TX-2116)

CHERYL CLARK (TX) (#58)

Attended: Texas T Party, '90 & '91, Coming Together '91.

45, 5'9", 148, blond hair, blue eyes, comfortable in all public situations. Interested in celebrating femininity in public as Cheryl: shopping, restaurants, theater, etc. Love music of all kinds, dancing, good conversation, and honest people. "Am organising programs in the Austin area to introduce the public to crossdressing. So far, I have had the delight of lecturing on the subject of crossdressing at the Austin Community College."

Cheryl Clark, P O Box 373, Manchaca, TX 78652 (TX-2116)

Carol B. (TX-2179)

CAROL BAKER (N TX) (#58)

Member: Houston Gulf Coast TG, Austin HTGA, Associate member of Dallas/Fort Worth Delta Omega.

Attended: All three Texas T Parties, Fantastic Adventure W/E

5'11", 165, married with supportive family. Interested in going out in public, meeting people, promoting our style of life, correspondence. "Outgoing. Not shy. Love TG. Try to present best image and never harm TV. Go out often and love it. Love to meet 'real' people."

Carol Baker, Box 1424, Waco, TX 76703 (TX-2179)

CASEY COLE (S TX) (#56)

Member: HTTV, Boulton & Park

Hetero TV, 39, 5'11". "Enjoy music, building my own house, outdoor activities. Active in several clubs. Interested in visiting others while traveling."

Casey C. (TX-1907)

MARY ANN B. (TX) (#58)

Member: Tri-Ess (Delta Omega).

WM, brunette, almost 40 (ugh!), 130, and 2 inches too tall.

Interested in sewing, creative fashion, cooking. "I am looking to correspond with others considering or seeking a future as a TS. Very friendly and outgoing. Would love to share experiences, dreams, and hopes (fears?) for the future. Please take some time and write. Will answer promptly."

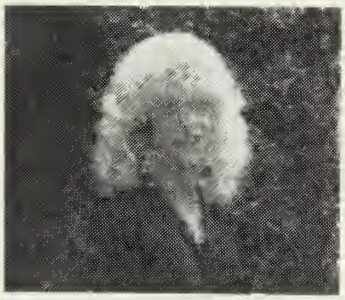
Mary Ann B. (TX-2194)

Rikki S. (TX-2201)

RIKKI SCOTT (S TX) (#58)

Late 40's professional man, lifelong CD with tolerant spouse. "Enjoy classical and jazz music, sailing, psychological and family history aspects of gender dysphoria. Doing research into gender dysphoria. Would appreciate all contacts and info (especially family history) on your CD experience."

Occupant, Box 26031, Austin, TX 78755 (TX-2201)



Marlina M. (TX-2211)

MARLINA DAWN MURPHY (S TX) (#58)

Member: Heart of Texas TV, Boulton & Park.

Participant: Texas "T" Party, Fantastic Adventure.

MWM, 6'2, 180, blue eyes, size 12/14, 50, professional.

Interested in fishing, gourmet cooking, soft music, wines, dressing. "Have supportive wife who helps me become the lady I like to be. Dressing since eight. Out and about as much as time allows. Interested especially in west TX and San Angelo area."

Marlina Dawn Murphy, P O Box 30413, San Angelo, TX 76903-0413 (TX-2211)

MAXINE MCDONALD (N TX) (#59)

Member: Delta-Omega (Dallas).

Attendee: FanFair (11 yrs.).

Awards: Ms. Most Helpful, Outreach Award.

MWM, 6'2", 205, SIZE 22. Dress down, not up, sort of like your average real estate sales woman. Interested in theatre pipe organ, broadcasting, video production, streetcars, computers, and communications museum. "I know I don't pass, but I try to do it with class."

Maxine McDonald, Box 820852, Dallas TX 75382-0852 (TX-2223)

Susan S. (TX-2235)

SUSAN JEAN SMITH (TX) (#59)

Member: ETVC, Boulton and Park Society, IFGE.

Attended: Sommernachtshall '91 (Germany), third place "Sommernachtshall Queen, 1991."

5'10", well built, very passable, very educated. Interested in writing for publication, body-building, dancing, meeting people. "Extremely good-looking Texas TV living in Europe wants to correspond with interesting, attractive people. Primarily seeking a generous man for marriage. Want to find work as a TV. Can relocate."

Susan Jean Smith (TX-2235)

Heather W. (TX-2384)

HEATHER WILSON (N TX) (#59)

Member: Delta Omega.

Attended: Texas T-Party '90, '91.

Single CD, 34, tall and slender, enjoys sailing, aerobics, shopping, and expensive clothes. Looking for continued growth by socializing with other members of our community nationwide, as well as locally. Work to be happy with who I am. Still searching for a woman who understands me, too."

Heather Wilson, Box 550802, Dallas, TX 75355 (TX-2384)

Donna W. (TX-2476)

DONNA WHITE (N TX) (#56)

Extremely sweet, effeminate TV, 5'9", 155, looking for friends.

"Passing in public and getting second glances from men is my favorite pastime. Would like to meet other sisters, and share experiences."

Donna W. (TX-2476)

Lee J. (TX-2316)

LEE JENKINS (TX) (#58)

Single TV, brown hair and eyes (hair color not constant).

Enjoys music, writing, photography, sports, and making videos. "Love dressing fully and being feminine. Just beginning to venture out in public, and would like support from a sincere TV, TS, or understanding female."

Lee Jenkins, #290, P O Box 2013, Austin, TX 78768-2013 (TX-2516)

Dee Anne M. (TX-2691)

DEE ANNE M. (S TX) (#56)

WMM, middle-age, educated, sales, hetero, with bi interests. Sincere, selective, caring, closet TV, size 16 dieting to 14, nice figure, graduated to full dress. "Want to fine tune femininity with attractive, LOCAL, accomplished, TV-TG, 40-55. Married with accepting other. Weekday time and ok site only. Interests are long-term, social: golf, lunches, dressing with refined person. Consider local, unencumbered, accepting TS or GG."

Dee Anne M. (TX-2691)

Robyn B. (TX-2750)

ROBYN M. BERRY (TX) (#57)

MWM, hetero, CD, 44, 5'8", 190. Interested in camping, computers, model railroads, dressing every chance I can. "I enjoy looking as feminine as I can, and I especially like petticoats and square dance dresses."

R. M. Berry, P O Box 5813, Katy, TX 77491 (TX-2750)

Barbara Ann P. (TX-2951)

BARBARA ANN P. (TX) (#57)

SBM Hetero TV. Lifelong CD, but still in the closet. "Enjoy dressing and feeling feminine. Love heels, hose, etc., but as part of the total look. Would love photo exchange, especially with other black crossdressers."

Barbara Ann P. (TX-2951)

Francine W. (TX-3112)

FRANCINE W. (TX) (#58)

6', 175, 40, brown hair, hazel eyes. Interested in photography, travel, music, reading, shopping for feminine apparel/jewelry. "Happily married for fifteen years, wife ignorant of CD activities. Passable. Love lingerie, very feminine dresses. Lifelong TV. Seek correspondence and photo exchange, advice on make-up and image, particularly from females (no paid professionals)."

Francine W. (TX-3112)

ROY H. (N TX) (#56)

DWM non-crossdresser, 5'10", 42, world traveler. Enjoy movies, videos, travel, records, concerts, quiet talks. "Would like to meet pre- or post-op TS for long lasting, honest, caring relationship. No games, no lies, just me. I have a nice beat and I'm easy to dance to."

Roy H. (TX-2370)

JHERI LEE SUMMERS (E TX) (#56)

Member: Tau Chi, TransPitt, Delta Omega, CGS, Flipside, IFGE Supporting.

6'2", 210, size 22, mid 40's, passable as a Giant Economy Size woman. Professional consultant. "Want contacts with sisters all over. Travel extensively. Drive Houston/Dallas often. Entrusted in Texas sisters. We can all be all we wish to be. Live half in Dallas, half in Houston. Want to do all I can to help our community. TG, except for work."

Jheri Lee S. (TX-2525)

DONNA MILLER (N TX) (#57)

"I would love to come out, but I need some help in doing so. Am interested in all TV goings-on. I want to be able to dress the way I want to, to be a total woman in every way. I am interested in actively supporting organizations that help our community."

Donna Miller (TX-2767)

PATTI L. (SE TX) (#57)

Very naturally nice-looking at age 60.

"I pass easily. A bit of a loner. My major interest at this point is to enjoy my femininity to the fullest. I have just reached the hormone stage. Have a supportive SO. Was president and CEO of a large corporation for many years."

Patti Lynch (TX-2768)

JANEY LEE (SE TX) (#57)

Member: Newest member of Humanity.

SWM, 5'11", 140, blue eyes. Enjoy reading (amateur historian), outdoor activities, roses. "Just coming out, and would love to make friends. Easy listener who loves to give advice. Typical Virgo. Excited about myself and new world of understanding and compassion. Please write, and let's get acquainted. Would love to entertain at my home. Like to hear from TS's and GG's who like humor, good food, and music."

J. Berg, P O Box 128, Texas City, TX 77592 (TX-2772)

D.C. (TX) (#57)

Hetero, 6'2", 210, blue eyes, brown hair. Interested in music, personal computers. "I am a respected professional, completely in the closet. Scared to death. Want to meet others for a chance to dress and relax in a safe environment. No experience with make-up or wigs. Looks need lots of help. Looking for crossdressers in the San Antonio area."

D.C. (TX-2855)

TAMMY H. (TX) (#57)

Member: Gulf Coast Transv. Chapter.

5'10", blond hair, blue eyes, 170. Interested in motorcycles, carving, violin.

Tammy H. (TX-2933)

KEITH H. (TX) (#58)

5'7", brown hair, hazel eyes, medium build. Interested in bowling, sewing, cleaning, and talking. "I need someone I can talk with and relate to about cross-dressing. Someone who could tell me what I have to look forward to, and who won't degrade me for what I do."

Keith H. (TX-3076)

COLORADO (800- 816-)

ROXANNE SALEM (C CO) (#56)

40+, male TV. "I'm a frequent and compulsive CD who enjoys the masquerade and eroticism of assuming my feminine role."

Roxanne S. (CO-2600)

SHIRLEY K. KNIGHT (CO) (#59)

Participant: Tiffany's P-town Outing, Texas T-Party, GGA Spring Fling.

SWM TV, 47, 5'8", friendly, fun, and feminine. "I enjoy traveling, church activities, and going out in public dressed."

Shirley K. Knight, P O Box 1042, Pueblo, CO 81002 (CO-0493)

Shirley K. (CO-0494)

Shana M. (CO-1088)

SHANA M. (C CO) (#57)

Member: Tri-Ess, IFGE.

Participant: 'Be All.'

Divorced, 6', 135, hetero, 55. Interested in photography, sailing, writing, parapsychology. "Been dressing since age 5. Have found acceptance as an entertainer in recent years. Enjoy doing fantasy makeup and costumes for friends. Slow correspondent, but will write to TV's and sympathetic ladies."

Shana M., Box 3613, Littleton CO 80161 (CO-1088)

Laura S. (CO-1556)

LAURA SMILEY (CO) (#59)

Member: GIC - Denver, Delta Chapter, IFGE Fundraising Committee.

Participant: Fantasia Fair '89, '90; T Party '90, '91; IFGE Convention '91.

MWM, forties, TG/TS tendencies, 5'10", 155. Enjoy being Laura, shopping, gardening, flying, skiing, cooking, rock n' roll music, being with friends. "Fun loving, caring person interested in bringing dignity, respect, and acceptance to our community. Been dressing since age five. Comfortable in all situations as Laura. Wife somewhat supportive."

Laura S. (CO-1556)

Jacquelyn S. (CO-2923)

JACQUELYN ST. GREGORY (CO) (#57)

DWM, TV with TS feelings, 35, 6'1", 153, artistic, very sensitive and caring. Interested in shopping, cooking, art, design, movies, travel. "My life-long tendencies were suppressed. Having survived cancer, I have been 'reborn' and since Jan. '90 have been completely committed. Currently I spend at least half of each day as a female. Looking for friends to share correspondence, support, and activities."

Jacquelyn St. Gregory, P O Box, 5553, Security, CO 80931-5553 (CO-2923)

Carolyn K. (CO-2979)

CAROLYN ELAINE K. (CO) (#57)

Member: Tri-Ess.

Professional writer, single, 46, 5'11", 155.

Interested in playwriting, acting, literature, music, running. "Two years ago, I joined the local Tri-Ess chapter in order to prop open that closet door. Sadly, after attending two meetings, I let it shut behind me. Now, I'd like to try again. It would help immensely to know some Colorado CD's tolerant of my timidity, or going through their own coming out difficulties. Please write."

Carolyn K. (CO-2979)

JILL BENEDICT (CO) (#58)

Member: Denver GIC.

Events attended: GIC 10th Anniversary and Coming Together.

"Dedicated in service to promoting the gender community as a viable and dignified component of society."

Jill Benedict (CO-2957)

PHYLECIA W. (CO) (#58)

"I am a heterosexual cross-dresser, with some TS tendencies. Married nearly twenty years. Wife knows, but does not participate. 5'9", 165, been dressing since the age of five.

Love being shaved all over, and wear soft, sheer things. Have been out since 1991 and love it! Would love all who wish to correspond, as I am new to Colorado. Want to meet people and go out."

P. Weiser, P O Box 60104, Colorado Springs CO 80960 (CO-3006)

Geri G. (CO-3077)

GERI G. (CO) (#58)

MWM, hetero, 5'11", 180, 52. Interested in fishing, camping, movies, and music. Travel Rocky Mountain area. Love to go out dressed, but would like other CD friends to go out for dinner and a show. Write if you are looking for someone to go out dressed with, and if you enjoy life being a woman."

Geri G., P O Box 27802, Denver, CO 80227 (CO-3077)

WYOMING (820- 831-)

Michelle I. (WY-2696)

MICHELLE I. (E WY) (#57)

MWM, 33, 5'7", 135, dark brown hair. Interested in shopping, movies, music, fashionable clothing, dancing. Very understanding and helpful wife. "Have been dressing since age 10, but just now coming out of the closet. Enjoy going out for dinner, a movie, shopping dressed as Michelle. Would like to meet or correspond with other lovely sisters. Can't travel, but would love to entertain."

M. Ingle, P O Box 3285, Billette, WY 82717-3285 (WY-2696)

IDAHO (832- 838-)

Davi B. (ID-2078)

DAVI B. (ID) (#57)

Single TV, TS tendencies, 5'11", 140, 40's, brown eyes, hair.

"I love going to the mall to shop for clothes. Going to a mall is the best part of my week. Enjoy water/snow skiing, roller skating, bowling, hook rugs. Would like to meet or hear from other sisters from all over that love doing the same things. Possible exchange of pictures and cassettes as well as letters."

Davi B. (ID-2078)

UTAH (840- 847-)

Kandee S. (UT-2726)

KANDEE' STORRS (UT) (#57)

Member: RCGSE.

DWM, 37, 5'10", 180. Professional engineer, makeup artist (photo & special effects), P/T female impersonator. Interested in amateur radio, electronics, sci-fi movies, all forms of makeup, costuming, wigs, performing in shows, passing perfectly. "Would love to meet GG, possibly performer, with similar interests for mutual improvement of our illusion and performance skills. Dream of owning own nightclub, classy shows, one day."

Kandee' S. (UT-2726)

Christy M. (UT-2816)

CHRISTY MILLER (UT) (#57)

TV/TS.

Interested in shopping, sailing, travel, photography, airplanes, cooking. "Free to enjoy the company of sisters who, like me, have taken that major step out of the deep, dark closet. Grateful for those who have been kind enough to assist me during the short period since I was liberated. Excited over what each new day may bring in the way of new friends and understanding in my new role."

Christy Miller, P O Box 21041, Salt Lake City, UT 84121-0041 (UT-2816)

ARIZONA (850- 864-)

Wendi P.. (AZ-1072)

WENDI DANIELLE PIERCE (AZ) (#57)

IFGE Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Member: A Rose, IFGE Supporting Member.

Attended: Coming Together, Be All, Fantasia Fair, Texas T-Party

Single post-op TS, 5'8", 150, 40. Co-founder of 'A Rose', public speaker at university level on crossdressing and transgender issues, very active in TV/TS Community. "I welcome correspondence although I cannot promise a quick response. My motto is 'GO FOR IT,' and I have!"

Wendi Danielle P., c/o A Rose, P.O. Box 4351, Scottsdale, AZ 85261 (AZ-1072)

Tommie F. (AZ-1158)

TOMMIE (E AZ) (#57)

Member: Butterfly, Tri-Ess (Delta and Alpha Zeta).

Participant: Holiday En Femme, 'Be All.'

Single TV, 50, 6', 170, size 14/16T, hetero. "A real fanatic for heels, hose, panties, and bras. Enough undies and outerwear to start my own boutique. Also like photography, historical and model railroading, and military history. Would like to meet, correspond and exchange photos. Will answer all."

Tommie F., P.O. Box 182, Safford AZ 85546-0182 (AZ-1158)

Priscilla S. (AZ-2457)

PRISCILLA ANN S. (CTL AZ) (#59)

SWM TV/CD, 63, 6'2", 195, size 22T, retired. Graying, dedicated CD, loves all things feminine, dress to "age style" of approx. 50+. "Strictly a closet TV. Would like correspondence or photo exchange with other mature TV/CD's (50-65+ age range). On quiet side, introvert, easy going. Will consider and discuss any aspect of mature TV/CD concomitant sexuality."

Priscilla S. (AZ-2457)

Carol D. (AZ-2509

CAROL DEARBORN (S AZ) (#59)

Pre-op, never married, TS. Enjoys peace, revisionist/conspiratorial history, unorthodox scientific/medical theory, children, hiking, nude beaches. "If I knew, years ago, of a TS sanctuary to escape to, the gospel of eliminating money, laws, and international boundaries; 'women are dangerous,' persons born breech (butt first) are different, and clothes and genitals don't make a Messiah . . . "

Miss Dearborn, P.O. Box 1417, Tucson AZ 85702 (AZ-2509)

Lee R. (AZ-2514)

LEE REYNOLDS (AZ) (#56)

Member: Tri-Ess: Alpha Zeta (IFGE Representative).

Participant: Holiday en Femme, Coming Together.

MWM, TV, 56, 5'11", 170. Outgoing, friendly, sense of humor. "I love to write and correspond with other sisters. I live near Prescott. I enjoy photography and exchanging videos with other crossdressers. I promise to write all who include photo."

Lee Reynolds, P O Box 39354, Phoenix, AZ 85069 (AZ-2514)

GEORGIA B. (AZ) (#56)

Post-op TS, 5'5", 40, auburn hair, hazel eyes, struggling to lose weight. Enjoy computers (including games), current events, and developing friendships, especially with other TS's. "Would like to correspond with other TS's to develop new friendships, also understanding males who are cuddly, active chubbies. Have IBM-PC with modem. Let's network. Would like to socialize. My place for coffee?"

Georgia B. (AZ-1012)

Carol M. AZ-2577)

CAROL MARSHALL (S AZ) (#56)

Member: Alpha Zeta, Tri-Ess.

45, 6'2", 210, college-educated. Interests include reading, cooking, homemaking skills, art, perfecting my feminine self. "I am a hetero CD married to a very supportive woman. We would like to correspond with other couples who are supportive of one another to compare lifestyles and make friends. I am slowly coming out, and after meeting other CD/TG/TS's, have begun to relax and enjoy my femininity."

C.M., P O Box 4246, Tubac, AZ 85646 (AZ-2577)

Cindee G. (AZ-2644)

CINDEE G. (S AZ) (#57)

MWM, 40, 5'9", 138, green eyes. "Attractive as a lady according to understanding wife. Interested in landscaping, model airplane building, and especially dressing up, and trying new and different feminine attire and wigs. Looking for friends like myself to show off to. Still in closet, but would like to get out and about en femme. Just need more encouragement and support."

Cindee G., P O Box 3332, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635 (AZ-2644)

Samantha C. (AZ-3098)

SAMANTHA CORMIER (AZ) (#59)

Member of Alpha Zeta, Tri-Ess.

Attended Fantasia Fair.

Interested in reading, movies, music, camping, photography, and especially dressing up. "Would like to correspond with other sisters, or GG's. Open to meeting with a sister in Phoenix, even if only for a short time. Will write to all who include a photo."

Samantha Cormier, P O Box 82813, Phoenix AZ 85071-2813 (AZ-3098)

JENNIFER S. (AZ) (#57)

DWM, 6', 170, 44, warm, sharing and caring. Interested in good food, music, cuddling, and dressing to the max. Good wardrobe--extensive lingerie, heels, wigs, make-up, etc. "Would like to meet other TV's or TS's."

Jennifer S. (AZ-1056)

VERONICA HALL (C AZ) (#56)

6', 160, 52, blue eyes, shoulder-length light brown hair. Hetero TV. "I enjoy walking, swimming, ice-skating, and shopping. I am interested in developing friendships with ladies who have similar interests, and who live in, or near Tucson."

Ms. V. Hall (AZ-2648)

NEW MEXICO (870- 884-)

GLENDA RENEE JONES (NM) (#57)

Member: TCNE, Tri-Ess, IFGE Supporting Member.

Participant: 'Coming Together.'

"My wife Linda Phyllis is active and well known in the paraculture. Hobbies are sewing, gourmet cooking, and writing. Have been out many times. Computer engineer by trade and work in the aerospace industry. Look forward to hearing from anyone."

Glenda Renee Jones, P O Box 13083, Albuquerque, NM 87192-3083 (NM-1952)

NEVADA (890- 898-)

PAM NORIS (S NV) (#56)

Member: IFGE.

5'8", approx. 135, brown hair/eyes. Very friendly and outgoing. Interested in business, electronics, martial arts, women's clothes and fashions. "I am new at letting myself go, but this is what I want to be. I could use all the help I can get, and would appreciate it."

Pam N. (NV-2681)

CYNTHIA ELLIS (NV) (#56)

Divorced, pre-op TS, 5'10", 135, 30, brown hair, blue eyes.

Interested in cabinetmaking, antiques, all visual arts and music. "I have successfully transitioned on the job at an Air Force base. If you are having troubles with your transition, maybe I can help. I'm interested in forming friendships with any gender-crossing individuals in the Las Vegas area."

Cynthia E. (NV-2721)

CALIFORNIA (900- 960-)

JOAN SHELDON (CA) (#57)

Member: ETVC (Co-founder), Rainbow G. A., NWGA.

Attended: Fantasia Fair, Texas T Party, Emerald City Events, Sponsor for Pajaro Dunes Weekends, and High Sierra Femme Fling at Lake Tahoe. Interested in life, sailing, flying, computer freque, Dixieland jazz. Lots of bounce to the ounce, but too many ounces. "Active CD for over thirty years. Pass well, able to go almost anywhere, but enjoy the masculine side even more. Understanding and supportive spouse."

Joan S. (CA-0391)

Wendy P. (CA-0390)

WENDY PARKER (S CA) (#56)

Member: IFGE Board of Directors, CHIC, ETVC, NWGA.

Participant: Coming Together, Be All, Fantasia Fair, Texas T-Party.

Awards: Fantasia Fair: 'Ms. Cinderella.'

TG, 42, 5'9", 160, fun, passable, and enjoy going out dressed. "Would like to socialize and correspond with other women, gentle souls, and free femme spirits."

Wendy P. (CA-0390)

Laura C. (CA-0480)

LAURA R. COVINGTON (CA) (#58)

DBM, Hetero, 42, 5'8", 150, attractive, sincere, friendly. Enjoys fashion, music movies, photography, reading, and sports. "Would like to correspond with and meet other TV's, TS's, and ladies who understand. Enjoy making new friends throughout the US."

Laura R. Covington, P O Box 10431, Oakland, CA 94160 (CA-0480)

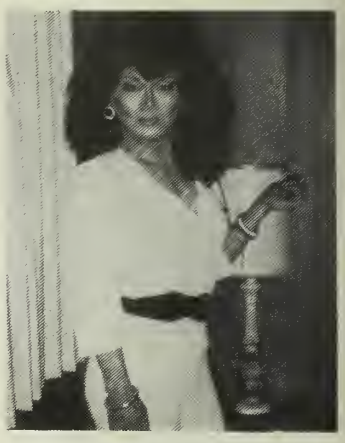
Angelique B. (CA-0578)

ANGELIQUE BRUMMELL (S CA) (#56)

TS-oriented male, femmiphile, feminist, believe in female rule. Health-oriented individual. 5'11", 160, 42, brown hair, blue eyes.

"Enjoy paleontology (esp dinosaurs), inflatable boating, cuddling, animals, & helping people. I also love to bake bread. Very refined and correspondingly difficult to get along with. Agreeable, caring, and compassionate. Possibly excessively honest and still naive. I'm very spiritual but am unable to identify myself fully with any religious organization yet experienced."

Angelique B. (CA-0578)



Rita F. (CA-0600)

RITA F. (CA) (#57)

Member: Paradise, Crossroads, ETVC, CGA, Transpit.

Participant: Be All, Shangrala, Poconos, Lee Brewster, P-Town.

Interested in art, music, auto racing, engine building, people. "I travel the entire U.S., and venture out in every major city. I am privileged to know and meet many sisters. I love everything feminine."

Rita F. (CA-0600)

Renee C. (CA-0644)

REN'EE CHEVALIER (S CA) (#57)

IFGE Board of Directors, "Coming Together" Staff.

Participant: P-Town WSG Outing, Wine Country Weekend, 'Coming Together.'

Awards: The MSL Service Award.

MWM, 5'9, 150, passable, and a supporter and hard worker on gender issues. Interested in photography and carpentry. "I enjoy helping others and bringing newcomers out into the community."

Ren'ee Chevalier (CA-0644)

RHONDA ANN SHAW (N CA) (#56)

Member: ETVC.

MWM, 6', 160, 53, non-smoker. Passes well in daytime. Self-employed professional scientist with post graduate degree. "Due to job and home commitments, I'm not always available. Interested in haute couture, furs, fine food and wine. Love to dine dressed in Bay area's better restaurants. Am looking for friends to accompany me. Tall males who can escort a stylish woman are welcome."

Rhonda S. (CA-0956)

Rhonda S. ((CA-0956)

Elizabeth J. (CA-1030)

ELIZABETH N. JOHNSON (S CA) (#56)

Pre-op M-F TS, 30's, 6', friendly but shy. Television engineer. Passable with voice, mannerisms & body frame, but in need of makeup & hair styling tips. Interested in fashion sales, indoor plants, sing opera (own soprano voice), computers, bicycles. "Would like to start a friendship with TV's, TV's and others who are warm, friendly and sincere. Write, call, send video tape (any format), or audio cassette."

Elizabeth J. (CA-1030)

Marlene L. (CA-1036)

MARLENE L. (S CA) (#57)

Member: Tri-Ess.

Awards: Distinguished Service Award-Holiday en Femme, San Francisco, 1987.

Single, 5'11", 150, 57. Interested in tennis, chess, skiing, astronomy. "I attend a dozen or so meetings each year. I work in the Tri-Ess National office once a week, and help organize new chapters."

Marlene L., P O Box 4067, Visalia, CA 93278 (CA-1036)

BETSY B. (N CA) (#57)

Member: STVC, NWGA, SGA, RGA, Tri-Ess

Participant: Dreams, Coming Together, Tahoe "Femme Flings."

DWM, older TV with long experience of crossdressing. "I enjoy depicting a well-dressed, dignified older lady befitting my age. Enjoy parties and association with other CD's. Will answer correspondence."

Betsy B. (CA-1104)

Janet E. (CA-1102

JANET EDWARDS (S CA) (#58)

Member: Tri-Ess.

Participant: 'Coming Together' 89.

5'9", 150, 41, dark brown hair and eyes, hetero CD, musician.

"Drummer in Mister Sister, the band at the Coming Together convention in '89. Was the first featured girl in Ladylike. Looking for CD's and GG's to go out with in the LA area for fun and friendship. I am passable and comfortable in any situation."

Janet E. (CA-1102)

Lorraine H. (CA-1150)

LORRAINE ELLEN HALL (CA) (#57)

Member: ETVC.

Pre-op TS, over 50. Some hormonal development. Have lived full-time for short periods and planning full-time. Interested in art, photography, music, theater, movies, bridge. "My lifelong dream to be transformed physically into a female was a secret until 5 years ago when I emerged from the closet. To my surprise, I have surmounted many obstacles that I thought stood in the way of realizing my goal, and it now seems to be within grasp. I would love to hear from others who may share my dream and welcome their comments, advice, and questions."

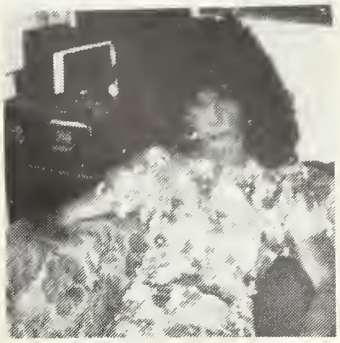
Lorraine H. (CA-1150)

SHARON LOUISE (C CA) (#57)

Member: Renaissance.

5'6", 165, white hair, hazel eyes, ruddy complexion. "Been this way for most of my life. Not a school girl by any stretch of the imagination! Everyone guesses some 10 years less than my actual age! Am well-read, former semi-pro baseball player, excellent bowler, good roller-skater and dancer, and good conversationalist. Began wearing corsets at a very early age, but did not become a total crossdresser until in my thirties. Would love to correspond, and possibly meet others in my area."

Jas. C. Morgan (CA-1303)



Nancy W. (CA-1374)

NANCY WILSON (S CA) (#58)

Member: Tri-Ess, Neutral Corner, ETVC.

5'9", 150, dark hair & eyes. "Creator of Crowning Glory Wigs for crossdressers in partnership with Mona (owner of shop). See ad."

Nancy Wilson, c/o Crowning Glory Wigs, P O Box 40366, San Diego, CA 92164 (CA-1374)

Cynthia H. (CA-1453)

CYNTHIA HOWARD (N CA) (#59)

Member: E D Gender Alternatives League, IFGE Congress of Representatives, NOW, ETVC, SGA, RGA, IMAGE, Tri-Ess.

Founder, national executive director of the Gender Alternatives League. Genderist, author, publisher and lobbyist working as a woman with government agencies, minority groups, and educational institutions. "I am currently working with many others from all segments of our community on a project to unify our community, promote gender activism, get our community out of the psychiatric books and journals, and off this can-be-descriminated-against list. I will communicate with anyone on any subject as time allows. If you are a genderist or a would-be gender activist, please conatct me."

Cynthia Howard, Box 3392, Napa CA 94558-3392 (CA-1453)

Donna F. (CA-1664)

DONNA LYNN FREEMAN (N CA) (#56)

Member: Tri-Ess, ETVC.

Participant: Holiday En Femme, Pajaro Dunes, 'Coming Together.'

MWM hetero TV, 43, 5'9", 160, size 16, warm, caring, sensitive; usually passable, and working to get better. "Enjoy good food, good friends and good conversation; computers, shopping and all things feminine. Lifelong CD, public for 3 years, enjoyed every minute. Understanding and actively supportive wife. Am fascinated with how I have changed on this incredible journey."

Donna F. (CA-1664)

Lynn L. (CA-1684)

LYNN LAND (CA) (#56)

41, 6', 185, blue eyed brunette, SWM, TV, educated, communicative, financially secure. Interested in working out, shopping, travel, living the good life, and spending time with ladies. "Want to meet TS's and females to form long relationships with. I am a successful person looking for someone to share my whole life with."

Lynn Land, P O Boc 2000-221, Corona Del Mar CA 92625 (CA-1684)

HARYN STEVENS (N CA) (#58)

SWM, Bi-TV, 31, PhD student, discreet, attractive.

Interested in Aikido, progressive politics, personal growth, computers, biology, learning how to pass. "Am more and more out. Have told family and close friends. Finally growing my hair long! Will start electolysis. Looking to date non-smokers as Sharyn: men or women who like TV's, including female TV's who enjoy role switching; as Steve: pretty TV's and TS's, or open-minded, accepting women."

Sharyn Stevens, P O Box 1172, Berkeley, CA 94701 (CA-1472)

ROXIE HOROWITZ (S CA) (#59)

S TV, 43, 5'8", 170.

"TV or not TV is not the question, it's the

answer. The question is watching television vs. going out crossdressed. Get out of your house, loosen up and go out and be outrageous. In the words of Magic Johnson, 'It's show time!' My goal as a performer was a live, one person show. I run for physical health, speak for my mental health, and crossdress for my creative expression. End your frustration by becoming the opposite sex. Call me, the crossdressing specialist. I am a dragnut!"

Roxie Horowitz (CA-1636)

Alyson D. (CA-1755)

ALYSON DANIELS (S CA) (#56)

Member: PPOC.

TV, 5'11". "I try to go out in public every couple weeks in the Pasadena area. I'm encouraged by moments when I seem to pass. I'm looking for friends (all types) who can understand or share my complexities. Be forewarned, I'm a lousy correspondent."

Alyson D. (CA-1755)

Susan D. (CA-1822)

SUSAN DAGGETT (S CA) (#56)

Member: Gender Dysphoria Program of Orange County.

6', curly brown hair, beautiful hazel eyes, 43 years young. "My life-long transsexual 'battle' is finally turning open and peaceful. I enjoy personal computing, hiking, scuba diving, and being feminine!"

Susan Daggett (CA-1822)

CINDY TAYLOR (N CA) (#56)

Bi WM, 29, blonde hair, blue eyes. Enjoy photography, music, video, astronomy. "Am interested in corresponding with other TV/TS's on who we are and why. I am interested in photo exchanges and the 'sub-categories' of TV/TSism. Am very supportive and a good correspondent."

Cindy T. (CA-1727)

RACHEL D. (N CA) (#56)

Member: ETVC, RGA.

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Texas T-Party.

5'10", 180, 51. Enjoy computers, programming, compuserve, bike riding, and, yes, cross-dressing. "Separated after 22 years of marriage. Live at home dressed. 18 year old daughter knows and accepts."

Rachel D. (CA-1811)

Blair S. (CA-1927)

BLAIR S. (S CA) (#57)

Married TV, 41, 5'10", size 20-22. Interested in shopping, cooking, music, photography, lingerie. "I try to look and act as feminine as possible when dressed. I would like to correspond with and perhaps meet TV's/TS's. I'm especially interested in contacting other large-size people to form a loose-knit national organization or network."

Blair S. (CA-1927)

Melissa F. (CA-2099)

MELISSA M. FOSTER (S CA) (#58)

Member: Feminine Image, PPOC, ETVC, NWGA, Alpha Zeta, A Rose, Neutral Corner, Tri-Ess.

Participant: "Coming Together."

Cute TV, 40's, 5'10", 185. BS in engineering, USAF Reserve.

"I travel around the world and enjoy meeting & writing other sisters. Often go out dressed. Enjoy music, dancing, sports. Write for several gender publications. Enjoy being involved in activities that will help my sisters and friends learn and grow."

Melissa Foster, P O Box 816, Lakewood, CA 90714 (CA-2099)

CHRISTY BARRON (S CA) (#56)

5'5", small build, 135 lbs., olive skin, dark hair & eyes, dress size 10/11. 39, educated professional. "I enjoy running, bicycling, reading, vacationing (especially in Spanish-speaking countries), and being a woman. I love small talk and styles in clothing and grooming. I have a very supportive and understanding wife. My children don't know, but I make a better mom than a dad, and everyone sees that. I'm family oriented and a very supportive, humanistic person."

Christy B. (CA-1839)

ANN L. (CA) (#57)

Member: ETVC, RGA, GIC, Neutral Corner.

38, 135, 5'7", M-F TS (pre-op), very passable. "Looking for similar TS's interested in non-sexual friendship, possible joint living or career opportunities. No men please."

Ann L. (CA-1840)

Jan N. (CA-2210)

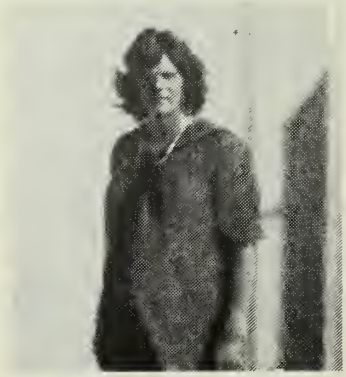
JAN N. (CA) (#59)

Member: PPOC, IFGE.

Attended: Texas T Party '90.

MWM, 5'11", hetero TV, 47. Interested in writing, movies, books, computers, cross-dressing, and everything feminine. Just married to an understanding, A+ wife. Would like to meet and/or correspond with other couples."

Jan N. (CA-2210)



Janelle S. (CA-2327)

JANELLE AILENE SEXTON (CA) (#59)

Member of IFGE, ETVC, Diablo Valley Girls.

Divorced, hetero, TV, 37, 6', 190, red hair, blue eyes. Interested in square dancing, period costumes, and simulated pregnancy. "Enjoy going out dressed as a woman."

Janelle Sexton (CA-2327)

MIKE B. (W CA) (#56)

Member: ETVC.

SWM, 43, 5'11", like to date TV/TS's. "I understand, and will be supportive of your female needs and wants. I'm sincere, honest, and would like to be that special man in your womanly life. I'm interested in cross-dressing myself, and would like to meet someone to help me with dress and make-up. Must be willing to commit to long-term relationship."

Mike B. (CA-2030)

JOANNA ALICE GAYLORD (S CA) (#57)

6'2", blue eyes, long auburn hair, currently obese, but losing weight. "After losing both parents, gaining arthritis & asthma, at least I am blessed with an understanding, supportive, wonderful wife, and a new year of hope."

Joanna G. (CA-2066)

Roxanna R. (CA-2350)

ROXANNA R. (N CA) (#59)

Member: ETVC.

Married TV, 6', 175, redhead or blonde. Open, supportive lifestyle and marriage. "Art is a lie, to reveal a deeper truth. I am a college-educated professional artist interested in correspondence and/or meetings with TV's, sincere men, and others to share a sense of mystery, illusion, and androgyny by CD as an art."

Roxanna R., P O Box 8182, Berkeley, CA 94707 (CA-2350)

Leona M. (CA-2505)

LEONA MARTIN (C CA) (#59)

Member: Tri-Ess.

65, 5'9", wife very supportive. "Love who I am, what I am, as well as gender sisters (TV/TS). I adore nice clothing, being buxom, and the soft, gentle aspects of femininity. I do turn exhibitionist for a camera. I would love photo sessions with others who are interested in self-improvement, sharing more than just fantasies. Will answer all."

Leona M. (CA-2505)

CINDY H. (SW CA) (#57)

Member: PPOC, IFGE.

SWM, 6'4", 235, Bi-TV. Interests: 12-step recovery, cooking, reading, fishing, photography, gender education, camping, and art.

"I am a designer. I look forward to corresponding with other sisters. My life is enhanced with spirituality. I would love to meet and correspond with a TS or a TG who lives and works as a lady here in southern CA.

My interests are channeled into a new game to be marketed soon. I'd love to share my new-found freedoms."

Cindy H. (CA-2117)

Lori C. (CA-2586)

LORI CALLWAY (SW CA) (#56)

Member: IFGE.

Mid-thirties, 5'6", tall, thin. Interested in old movies, 60's rock (esp. Beatles), reading history, mysteries, and photography sessions en femme. "I love being feminine, and being around others who share similar interests. Interested in relationships with sincere people. Want to share experiences. Would love to meet GG's, TS's, TV's."

Lori Callway, P O Box 64312, LA, CA 90064 (CA-2586)

Babs (CA-2620)

BABS D. (N CA) (#57)

"Avid collector of TV, TS, CD books, periodicals, memorabilia, with a special interest in performers. There are over 100 books as well as too many magazines to count in my collection. Would like to correspond with other bibliophiles and collectors to compare acquisitions. If you're looking to trade or sell, get in touch. I am seeking: 'Tapestry', prior to #39, 'Ladylike' #1 and 2, 'Female Mimics International' #38 and 39, and selected issues of Lee G. Brewster's 'Drag' and Virginia Prince's 'Transvestia'."

Babs D. (CA-2620)

ROXANNE R. (S CA) (#58)

DWM TV, 37,6'1", 240. Lifetime, closeted TV. Enjoy shopping, dressing, music, frills, golf, and pool. Would like to correspond and meet with other CD's, TS's, or men interested in such. "I am a very open and loving person. Will answer all who write. Live in the Inland Empire area."

Roxanne R. (CA-2174)

ANNE VITALE, Ph.D. (N CA) (#56)

Member: HBIGDA.

Participant: HBIGDA Conference.

"I am a psychotherapist specializing in gender related issues. Being myself a M-F TS (operation in Jan. 1980), my interest in this area is both deep and personal. Although I am in private practice, I am closely associated with other Bay Area gender professionals and can provide complete pre- and post-op psychotherapy as well as recommendations for hormonal therapy and/or sex reassignment surgery when applicable."

Anne Vitale, Ph.D., D St. Counseling Group, 610 D St., San Rafael, CA 94901 (CA-2546)

Julie L. (CA-2632)

JULIE LEWIS (SW CA) (#56)

CD with TS desires, 39, 6'. Interests include tennis, photography, computers, and of course, being free to be me. "Been out of touch for a few years; now trying to pull myself up by my bra straps and get on with my life. Have experienced passing even in such places as a red-neck bar . . . but passing just isn't enough, is it?"

Julie Lewis (CA-2632)

Mayumi O. (CA-2706)

MAYUMI OTA (S CA) (#56)

TV with Oriental background. 5'7", very passable. "Would like to correspond and meet with other TV/TS's. Love to dress like a lady. Would like to learn a lot more about hormones."

M. Ota (CA-2706)

MELANIE B. (SW CA) (#56)

DWM, 5'4", 39, TS. Light brown hair, blue eyes, 140, looks 30ish. Interested in collecting dolls, sewing, cooking, motorcycles, thrift stores, window shopping, antique clothes, literature. "Been a TS since childhood, but out of the closet only recently. Need lots of help with dressing and passing. I'm an RN with 16 years ICU-CCU and ER experience. I'm looking for friendship, not romance. Will answer all promptly."

D.B., P O Box 151074, LA, CA 90015 (CA-2566)

BRIE'ANNE P. (SW CA) (#56)

5'9", 145, brown hair/eyes. Enjoy music, sports, feminine things. "I'm very new at this. My wife knows, and helps. We need to hear from any couple that can help us understand and be aware of both our needs. I also can use help in becoming more feminine. Right now, I am just a child."

Brie'Anne P. (CA-2606)

Kris C. (CA-2713)

KRIS C. (C CA) (#56)

MWM, TV, 5'8", 165, brown hair/eyes. Sensitive and caring. Enjoy music sports, fashions. Working on becoming passable, but still need more help, advice, and practice. "Love dresses, skirts, shoes, makeup, and just about all feminine attire. Have come a long way since I first started crossdressing. Have accepted myself as a TV, and I love every minute of it. Would like to correspond with sincere TV's/TS's by writing/photos."

Kris C. (CA-2713)

Arlene R. (CA-2727)

ARLENE FAY ROSEN (N CA) (#56)

Member: ETVC.

6", 160, brown hair, blue eyes, Bi TG, size 12. Enjoy the full feminine look and feel of crossdressing. "Seeking petite (under 5'7"), like-minded person to enjoy intimate, nurturing relationship. Serious replies enclose photo/phone."

Arthur Rosen (CA-2727)

Tracy M. (CA-2835)

TRACY MORGAN (CA) (#57)

MWM, 40, 6'. Wife tries to tolerate without much success. "I enjoy crossdressing, photo exchange, psychotherapy, movies, music, and the Boston Red Sox. After 30 years in the closet, I want some friends I can have fun with. I am interested in hearing from good letter writers and those of you who have told your children about your dressing up, and whether you would recommend or advise against my doing that."

Tracy Morgan, P O Box 7543, Van Nuys, CA 91409. (CA-2835)

CHRISTINA R. (SW CA) (#56)

SWM, 30's, hetero, spiritual, sensuous, with well-integrated femininity. Interests include environmental activism, medieval romantic literature, travel, wines, music, and spiritualism. "Getting better every day. Learning to pass better, and would appreciate all help. Love wedding gowns, and fancy, pretty dresses, maternity, and high heels. My psyche is healthy, but I have some fear and guilt about coming out. Will answer all with sincerity, compassion, intimacy, respect, and feeling."

C. Richardson, P O Box 485, Claremont, CA 91711 (CA-2617)

Christina W. (CA-2901)

CHRISTINA WHITE (CA) (#57)

Member: ETVC, SGA.

Young 37, 5'9", 130, MWM CD with TG/TS tendencies. "Size 10, look nice in sportswear and updated classic clothes. Took dance class as a boy and ended up as a girl in leotards. I'm finding being Christina is so natural. Love hair ornaments and girl talk. Pass fairly well in the day. I want to hear from and contribute to our community. Write with pictures--will reply quickly."

Christina White, P O Box 258, Carmichael, CA 95609 (CA-2901)

Chelsea B. (CA-2934)

CHELSEA BROWN (CA) (#58)

Married TV, 6', hazel eyes. Interested in computers, reading (and writing) TV fiction. "Still learning (and enjoying it), and just starting to go out en femme."

Chelsea Brown, P O Box 2025-364, Tustin, CA 92680 (CA-2934)

Julie Y. (CA-3019)

JULIE YON (CA) (#58)

5'9", 35, Asian-American. "I love make-up and feminine finery. Like fish-pond gardening, billiards, and darts. Would enjoy exchange of letters from all TV sisters, especially other Asian-Americans."

Julie Y. (CA-3019)

Mary Anne S. (CA-3030)

MARY ANNE S. (CA) (#58)

Member: ETVC, Rainbow Gender Alliance.

5'8", 160, blue eyes, 40-31-38, 14, WTS, single, 41. Interested in science, especially astronomy, cooking, gardening, and music. "Recently out of the closet and excited about the possibilities of the paraculture. Am hetero, but would enjoy dressing with anyone from our androgynous community."

Mary Anne S. (CA-3030)

JULIE B. (SW CA) (#56)

Member: Tri-Ess.

Hetero CD, 5'8", 145, 34, married, two children. Still a closet case. Wife knows, but doesn't care for it. Interested in electronics, computers, family, long walks, California real estate. "Glad to write anyone about anything. I have much to learn, but can also offer some unique views on many topics. I would like to find out what others do to get the courage to go to meetings and other places. I'm dying to get out, but don't know how."

Julie B., P O Box 8412, Northridge, CA 91327-8412 (CA-2639)

CHARLENE S. (SW CA) (#56)

Member: Neutral Corner.

SWM, TG, 50, 6'1", 165. Outgoing, fun, loving, passable. "Strong supporter of TV/TG/TS and gender issues. Love to socialize with sincere, funloving TV/TG/TS sisters, and open, unbiased GG's and couples. TV/TG whole life. Public since 1960."

Charlene S. (CA-2652)

Judi B. (CA-3063)

JUDI BENSEN (CA) (#58)

6', 170, 37 years old a few times. Interested in bicycling, spending time by the ocean, quiet music, and helping others. "While I'm in the closet, I am dying to go out dressed. I'm totally heterosexual with a wonderful, unknowing wife. Seek communication with others to better understand TV, TS, and cross-dressing. Not interested in sexual letters. Photos OK, not necessary."

Judi Bensen, P O Box 1866, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 (CA-3063)

AMY H. (C CA) (#56)

TV/TS, 28 years old, 5'6", brown hair and green/brown eyes. Interests include lingerie, being a woman in all ways; also war games and collecting Japanese animation. "I am looking for discrete TV's, TS's and GG's for correspondence and friendship."

Amy H. (CA-2769)

PATTI PIERCE (CA) (#57)

Member: PPOC, Tiffany Club.

MWM, 6'2", 155, brown hair and eyes, pierced ears. Interested in organic gardening, RV travel, reading, coin and stamp collecting, economics, and shopping. "I love to dress as a woman, and would love to correspond with other TV's for friendship and support. Out of the closet for three years, and enjoy life to the fullest."

P. Pierce, P O Box 328, Bryn Mawr CA 92318 (CA-2799)

DEIRDE M. (CA) (#57)

Member: ETVC.

Professional harpist, tours nationally. "Available for TV events any location. I play solo, or in duet with significant other."

Deirde M., P O Box 1724, Mendocino, CA 95460 (CA-2868)

OLIVE H. (CA) (#57)

54, WM, TV, 5'11", 170. "I'm still in the closet, but want to emerge. Would like to correspond with and meet understanding women."

Olive H. (CA-2871)

JULIE ANN R. (CA) (#57)

SWM, TV, 40, 5'8", 150. Still closeted, but trying to come out. Interested in fashion, clothes, make-up, shopping, gardening, cooking, hairstyles, developing all aspects of my femininity. "I am quite content to have both male and female personas. I would enjoy meeting others. I am honest, sincere, and quick as possible with correspondence. Enjoy 'girl talk' through the mail, and possible meeting."

Julie Ann R. (CA-2892)

MELANIE HOWARD (CA) (#57)

WM, 39, 5'11", 155. Interested in history, photography, fashion, paleontology, astrophysics. "I am a life-long TV, except for the past few years of unsuccessful repression. I have an understanding wife. I would like to hear from sisters anywhere, but especially from the Pasadena and L.A. area, for friendship and support. I'm looking forward to again participating in the local outreach organizations. All correspondence will be answered."

Melanie H. (CA-2899)

CONNIE (CA) (#57)

5'8-1/2", 225 (and losing), brown hair, blue eyes, retired military, A. A. General Science, working on B. A. in psychology. Interested in bodybuilding, drag racing, and motorcycles. "Lifelong interest, but only approving significant other is aware. Have not gone out in public as I am too big to pass. Am learning make-up techniques and would appreciate any help or comments. Will try to answer all."

David & Connie, 3920 Market St. Suite 117, Riverside, CA 92501 (CA-2988)

SANDI B. (CA) (#58)

Member: IFGE.

MWM, hetero, CD, 60, 5'8", 145. Conservative dresser. Interested in photography, sailing, scuba. "Started dressing at age 12. Still striving to look as naturally feminine as possible. Married 30 years to wonderful woman who helps me select and obtain coordinated outfits, but can't participate. Love all things feminine, especially long, manicured nails, smooth legs, sheer hose, and pretty shoes."

Sandi Buell, P O Box 1038, Bonsall, CA 92003 (CA-2989)

BARBARA HARRIS (CA) (#58)

"I am a tall, trim, 55 year-old, novice crossdresser who has finally found the inner strength to express his femininity. I am an intelligent, caring, professionally-employed person with a fine sense of humor. I would like to communicate with experienced persons for friendship and guidance in my development."

Barbara H. (CA-2993)

FRANCES H. (CA) (#58)

Member: Tri-Ess.

Hetero WM, 5'7", 180, 48, married 29 years to same woman. Interested in old cars, gardening, antiques, crossdressing. "Have crossdressed to some degree since age 7 or 8. Have finally accepted my feminine side. Because I am unsure about passing, I seldom go out dressed. Would like advice about make-up and hair. Would like to hear from other CD's. Will answer all letters."

Frances Harvey, P O Box 629, New Castle, CA 95658 (CA-2998)

JOLYNN VEIRA (CA) (#58)

DWM, 48, 5'7", 160, CD since early teens, artist (MFA), but now working in a managerial position in a barely related field. Interested in art, computers, computer art and animation, fixing and decorating my own house. "Always closeted and fighting it through two marriages, but now enjoying it as much as I can. Had never met another TV or had knowledge of the community until recently. Would like to hear from and get in contact with all, especially supportive females who can be understanding and discreet."

Jolynn V. (CA-3017)

HAWAII (& ISLANDS) (967-969-)

Clara Ann B. (HI-0955)

CLARA ANN BULLARD (HI) (#59)

Member: Delta Chi chapter Tri-Ess.

6', 180, size 20. Interested in flowers, plants, and cooking. "Been dressing since a teenager. Have been out 'window shopping'-driving around most of life. I don't pass too well as a lady, but it's fun. Love feeling feminine, touching silk and satin, just girl things."

Clara Ann Bullard, P O Box 1210, Kapaa, HI 96746 (HI-0955)

Tracy R. (HI-2180)

TRACY RYAN (HI) (#58)

Member: Hawaii Transgendered Outreach, President of same.

Awards: "Miss Femininity," Fantasia Fair, 1990

Hetero CD, 35, 5'8", 145. Outer dresser. "Pass shopping, dining, etc. Active in Hawaii Transgendered Outreach. I'd love hearing from sisters elsewhere. I've met or corresponded with over one hundred in 1990. I'd also love to hear from genetic females. I don't like hearing from male 'admirers'."

T. Ryan, 777 Kapiolani Blvd, #3114, Honolulu, HI 96813 (HI-2180)

CHRIS LEE (HI) (#56)

5'10", 148. Enjoy dining out, jogging, swimming, golf. "Part-time CD, never been out, would like to correspond/meet with experienced, passable CD (heterosexual). Would like to go out in public, and perhaps attend TV/CD events."

Chris L. (HI-2593)

OREGON (970- 979-)

Ellen S. (OR-0382)

ELLEN SUMMERS (OR) (#57)

IFGE Board of Directors, Vice-Chrprsn Board of Directors, Chrprsn Nominations Committee.

Member: NWGA, ETVC, Emerald City.

Awards: "DREAM" Grand Dame '83.

5'10", 185. "Been a part of our community for 15 years. Enjoy travel, my big band era recording collection, being Ellen as much as possible, shopping for Ellen. My interest is in helping our community to accept themselves. My family knows of Ellen, and understands."

Ellen S., c/o NWGA, Box 4928, Portland, OR 97208-4928 (OR-0382)

Stacy C. (OR-1806)

STACY CLEMENT (OR) (#56)

MWM TV, 6', 190, green eyes, auburn hair (long enough to wear naturally). Very passable. Professional photographer. I especially love photo sessions with TV friends. Enjoy shopping, cooking, wine, food, and friends. "I've been around the TV scene for years, and would like to exchange stories, tales, and the like with you!"

Stacy C. (OR-1806)

Jennifer M. (OR-2421)

JENNIFER M. (OR) (#59)

Member: NWGA.

Awards: La Femme Magnifique.

5'7", 138, enjoy all of feminine life--shopping, dining, theater. "Other than at work (health professional), I can dress anytime. Trying to learn to sew dresses and lingerie. Wish to pass as a woman in all activities. Kayaking, biking, and hiking are great in Oregon. Will correspond with all and exchange photos."

Jennifer M. (OR-2421)

RACHEL M. (NW OR) (#56)

Single WMTV, 29, gorgeous and fun. "I want to meet friends in the Portland area for understanding and good times."

Rachel M. (OR-2654)

CAROL T. (NW OR) (#56)

55, 5'10", 180, brown hair/eyes, married. "I enjoy reading Sci-Fi and historical novels, sailing, light airplanes. Although I've been a crossdresser many years, I am just now coming out of the closet. I need all the help I can find. Would like to contact and possibly meet others locally."

Carol T. (OR-2702)

RHONDA F. (C OR) (#56)

Member: NW Gender Alliance, Tri-Ess.

38, 5'10", 155, TV, married, hetero, no children. Interested in everything feminine, remodeling, camping, backpacking, auto restoration, trap shooting, bird hunting. "Still in closet, although I did attend a NWGA function. Working on my image to go public soon. Have understanding wife who helps occasionally. Fall and winter are my best times. I've known about myself since age four, but still have trouble coming to grips with my other self. Ready to go forward! Employed with Fire Service."

Rhonda F. (OR-2708)

Linda Ann T. (OR-2908)

LINDA ANN T. (OR) (#57)

Member: NWGA (co-founder), former president of Salmacis in San Francisco.

50, married, bi, like to go out with passable TV's and escorts, travel occasionally to various places. "Respectable married couples a pleasure to meet. Anyone in Mauii, Manhattan, L.A., St. Louis, San Francisco? Possible visits on business to above points."

Linda Ann T. (OR-2908)

WASHINGTON (980- 994-)

JUDY OSBORNE (WA) (#56)

Member: Emerald City, NWGA, Tri-Ess.

Participant: Fantasia Fair.

5'11, 155. Enjoys sailing, reading, tennis, sports, cooking. "Love friends in the transgendered community, and in other life. Wish two could be brought together. Making some progress in this."

Judy Osborne, Box 19394, Seattle, WA 98109 (WA-1024)

Karen K. (WA-0322)

KAREN KENT (NW WA) (#56)

Member: NWGA, Tri-Ess (Board of Directors).

Participant: Be All, Holiday En Femme.

48, 5'9", 195. "Dressed since early childhood, out of the closet in 1981. Dress almost every day. Pass. Go shopping, to restaurants, the theater, take part in panel discussions for college classes, dressed. Have written articles dealing with crossdressing. Travel, so can meet a lot of sisters around the country."

Karen K. (WA-0322)

Sandy S. (WA-1022)

SANDY S. (WA) (#56)

Member: Emerald City.

Participant: 90 In 90.

5'11", 185, blue eyes, blonde. "Enjoy total look, enjoy going out and meeting others. Love entire look from lingerie to heels and stockings. Want to learn all and meet others with same interest. Enjoyed events in Portland and Seattle. Would like to meet others with accepting wives."

Sandy S. (WA-1022)

Amy Jo C. (WA-1181)

AMY JO C. (W WA) (#57)

Member: Emerald City-Seattle.

5'11", black hair, hazel eyes. Enjoy lingerie, sexy nylons, high heels, anything feminine. "Would like to meet other TV/TS in the same area."

A.J. Carmody (WA-1181)

JEAN G. (WA) (#58)

WM, TV, 5'11", 175, 49.

Interested in flying, old cars. "I've been crossdressing since age 12. Married 30 years. Wife knows, but is non-supportive. I don't dress completely very often, but wear bras regularly. I will answer all letters."

Jean Gruber, P O Box 2876, Renton, WA 98056 (WA-1331)

Michelle H. (WA-1446)

MICHELLE LEE H. (WA) (#59)

Member: Tri-Ess, IFGE, Emerald City, NWGA, Boulton & Park, ETVC.

Attended: Holiday In Femme, Be All, Esprit, Texas T Party, Southern Comfort, Dignity Cruise.

Interested in cooking, gardening, flowers, golden retrievers, golf, reading, music, shopping, reaching out, and annual Esprit week in the northwest.

Michelle Lee H. (WA-1446)

Mary G. (WA-1826)

MARY M. GIBBONS (WA) (#56)

Member: Emerald City, NWGA.

Participant: Holiday En Femme, Fantasia Fair, Coming Together.

MWM TV, 48, 5'11". Enjoy music (attend opera and ballet and enjoy much wider variety), travel, movies, books. "Have an accepting family which allows very satisfying activities. Enjoy meeting and corresponding with other people. Not interested in macho pursuits. Interested in friends, not 'relationship'."

Ms Mary M. Gibbons, P O Box 1151, Mercer Island, WA 98040 (WA-1826)

JENNIFER MARTIAN (SW WA) (#56)

Member: IFGE Supporting Member.

Single M-F pre-op TS, 29. Enjoy model railroading, socializing with other TS's. "Enjoy my job as a building maintenance engineer. On

hormones one year. Would like to visit and talk with other TS's in Washington. I work 6-7 days a week, so difficult for me to travel, but I do get to Seattle four times a year to see my physician."

Jennifer M. (WA-1710)

Melissa P. (WA-2102)

MELISSA LEEANN PRATHER (WA) (#57)

Member: Emerald City, Tri-Ess, NWGA.

Participant: '90 In '90, Esprit '91.

MWM, 5'9", 190, 57. Interested in sewing and design art, calligraphy, model railroading, stamp collecting, scale model planes, and dressing. "Have a supportive wife. We go out shopping together, and dine out. Have been out of closet three years. Want to build up friendships."

Melissa LeeAnn Prather, 7358 28th Ave., SW, Seattle WA 98126-3313 (WA-2102)

Renee F. (WA-2618)

RENEE FREEMAN (WA) (#56)

Member of Emerald City.

Attended Esprit '91.

5'11", 195, 41, MWM. "Trying to cope with all the personal changes since telling the world of Renee. Extremely supportive wife who has known about Renee only one year out of the last twenty. Realized I had been living my life to be that which others expected me to be. Will not spend the next forty years that way! I choose to shed the charade and the guilt."

Renee Freeman, P O Box 1286, Everett, WA 98206 (WA-2618)

STEPHANIE NELSON (WA) (#59)

Hetero CD, 6'2", 160, 40, brown hair, green eyes, professional.

Interested in skiing, tennis, camping. "Would like to develop honest, sharing friendship, non-sexual. Would also like to pass in public. I would particularly like to hear from other CD's, TV's, or TS's in Spokane area."

Stephanie Nelson, P O Box 15183, Spokane, WA 99215 (WA-2318)

Helen B. (WA-2688)

HELEN B. (W WA) (#56)

"I am a hetero TV who loves the feeling of being fully dressed and feminine. Because my family is not aware of my interests, personal meeting may be difficult, but I would love to correspond, trade photos, and hopefully meet."

Helen Bounds, Box 3772, Bellevue, WA 98009 (WA-2688)

Comfort G. (WA-2867)

COMFORT DESIREE GREEN (WA) (#57)

DWM, 39, 190 and losing--goal 175-150, ash blonde hair with blue eyes. Interested in crossdressing, guitar, photography, writing short stories, movies, the arts. "I'm a new girl, seeking her roots. Can you help? Interested in correspondence with TV's, TS's, and women. I'm hetero, with strong affections towards pre-ops and TS's."

Ms. Comfort Desiree Green, P O Box 658, Centralia, WA 98531 (WA-2867)

WENDY KATHERINE P. (W WA) (#56)

MWM, hetero TV, 42, 5'9", 180, blue eyes, auburn hair. "Would like to improve my presentation. Interests include feminine things, skiing, long walks in the moonlight, 60's music. Trying to come out more; non-supportive wife hinders that. Looking for someone special to share ideas and experiences with. Would like to go out, but need to gain more confidence and experience in the feminine role. Will answer all sincere letters."

W.K. Plemmons, P O Box 101, Moclips, Wa 98562-0101 (WA-2662)

DENISE STRONG (WA) (#57)

Member: Emerald City, Ingersoll Gender Center, IFGE Publication Committee.

MWM, TV/TG, 39, 5'11", 170, hetero, professional. Enjoy meeting others, intellect, travel, movies, music, plays, outdoors, humor, spontaneity, fine wine, and meaningful nonsexual friendships. "Willing to correspond with, and meet with other people who enjoy going out. Well-read on TV/TG/TSism. Interested in additional research and writing articles on same. Wife supportive, however, discretion is a must. Will answer all."

Denise Strong (WA-2748)

Jessica M. (WA-2975)

JESSICA MORGAN (WA) (#58)

Member: NWGA, Emerald City.

Attended: California Dreamin'.

Married, hetero TV, 35, 5'10", 170. "Self-employed professional. Have recently come out of the closet after thirty years of guilt. I am excited about improving my feminine image, and would appreciate tips from anyone interested in sharing ideas. Next step in my life is to share Jessica with my wife of ten years. Would also like to correspond with other couples."

Jessica A. Morgan, P O Box 3891, Federal Way, WA 98063-3891 (WA-2975)

Randi D. (WA-3042)

RANDI LEIGH DENNIS (WA) (#58)

Member: Emerald City.

5'3", brown eyes, hair: dark auburn to light brown depending on my outfit and my mood. Hetero CD headed towards TG. Interested in photography, sports, classical rock, jazz, rock, WW II history, Sci-Fi, trains, cats. "Would like to help others understand our special duality. Race or religion not important, sincerity is. Will answer all. Hope to develop an enduring relationship with a GG or a TS."

Randi Leigh Dennis (WA-3042)

ADRIAN C. (WA) (#57)

"Handsome, mature, bi-male crossdresser with many interests desires correspondence to develop friendship with very feminine, passable TV, pre-op TS, or TS with the object of eventual lasting, mutually fulfilling, loving relationship. Will answer all."

Adrian C., P O Box 80311, Seattle, WA 98108 (WA-2775)

CHRISTINA G. (WA) (#57)

5'5", 130, Hispanic, dark hair, brown eyes, fine build, size 7-8.

Interested in sports, women's rights, news, wearing beautiful feminine clothing that makes me feel pretty inside. "As soon as I heard of Tapestry, I wanted to get involved. I've felt all alone for a great deal of my life, but now want to express myself and be active and supportive. No longer ashamed of myself. I'm a woman trying to come out (transsexual)."

Christina G. (WA-2812)

LISA HUYEN (WA) (#58)

Member of Tri-Ess.

"Have been dressing for thirty years. Would consider TS to become completely a woman. Attractive Asian. Photo on request."

Lisa Huyen, P O Box 10242, Olynpia, WA 98502 (WA-3088)

Emily T. (WA-3119)

EMILY THOMAS (WA) (#58)

Member: Emerald City, Tri-Ess.

Attended Esprit '91.

5'7", 148, brown hair and eyes. Interested in sewing, weaving, spinning, woodworking, computers, and reading. "Go out dressed three or four times a month and pass, day or night. Family is tolerant of my dressing. Would like to meet other TV's who pass and would like a night out. Would also correspond with others."

Emily Thomas, P O Box 2799, Woodinville WA 98072-2799 (WA-3119)

ALASKA (995- 999-)

DONNA S. (AK) (#59)

Member: Berdache Society.

Life-long TV, 5'9", 35, 145.

"Enjoy being dressed en femme in public, short skirts, downhill skiing, hunting, and fishing. Will answer all letters."

Donna S. (AK-2247)

SUSANNE MARIE B. (AK) (#56)

MWM, 33, 6'3", 175, brown hair, blue eyes.

"Interested in corresponding with other CD's and TV's and attending my first public function as 'Susanne.' Would welcome any letters and photos and will return same. Would like to communicate with those who share my love for women's clothing, and playing the part

as well."

Susanne B. (AK-2422)

Nora Y. (AK-1425)

NORA JEAN YORK (AK) (#59)

Member: Berdache Society.

Participant: Coronation '89.

"I'm fun, feminine, sincere, loving, sexy. I enjoy cooking, sewing, biking, and using my home computer. I enjoy watching videos and making them. I adore sexy clothing and lingerie. I am constantly working to bring forth the woman from within."

Nora Jean York, P O Box 203134, Anchorage, AK 99520-3134 (AK-1425)

CANADA

Micheline J. (CAN-0560)

MICHELINE JOHNSON (ON CAN) (#58)

Former TS, now happily post-op (May 1990).

"Thank you all (Merissa, IFGE, support groups and individuals) for your support and friendship in the past, and to all those who wrote to me during my transition. I am no longer looking for new correspondence or friendship from within the gender community or from outside my home town (Ottawa). I need someone close at hand. Apologies to those to whom I did not write back, due to work overload. Love to you all."

Micheline Johnson, P O Box 9155, Stn. T, Ottawa, ON, K1G 3T9 (CAN-0560)

LINDA JENSEN (ON CAN) (#56)

Tall, slim, blue eyed, dark hair.

"Love to shop, dress, go out. Also into fitness, home video, and stimulating conversation and travel. I've met many fine persons involved in the cross-dresser's world. I would like to meet and share experiences with more."

Linda Jensen, Box 15855, Stn. F, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2C-3S7 (CAN-0442)

CAROLYN ALEXANDER (ON CAN) (#57)

"I'm a 40-something attractive and sophisticated bi WMM CD, well and truly educated with a sensuous, caring attitude. I pass easily and love to be totally feminine. Looking for intimate friendship with readers having similar make-up who wish to meet or correspond."

Carolyn Alexander, Box 7115, Vanier PO, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1L 8E3 (CAN-1087)

Karen B. (CAN-1970)

KAREN-ANNE BROWN (ON CAN) (#56)

"Hi! I'm a 5'4" TV doll, petite 12, 39-31-38. Pass easily if I do not talk. Like romantic music, wine, and willing to consider any fantasy. Write TV fiction, and have mags and books to swap. I enjoy computers and intelligent conversation. I am in the closet, but willing to travel W QUE, Northern NY, and E ONT, for the right person. Only well written letters will be responded to."

Karen-Anne Brown, P O Box 1175, Cornwall, ON K6H 5V2 CANADA (CAN-1970)

Christine B. (CAN-2474)

CHRISTINE B. (BC CAN) (#56)

Married, 40, 6', 165, TS oriented, with supportive wife. "My primary interests lie in raising my children and being in a fulfilling relationship with my wife, and exploring the unlimited potential of my career. Having read Kyndel Kellis' article in Issue 55, I have embraced the concept of Berdache - each day is different. I have only been out dressed twice. I need a clear understanding of the legal ramifications of being made before pushing my luck. I would appreciate feedback."

Christine B. (CAN-2474)

ALLISON JENNIFER BRENT (AL CAN) (#56)

Member: Phi Sigma.

MWM, hetero CD, 5'9", 172, 6'4", brown hair, brown eyes. "I am married to a wonderful gal who is aware of my CD interests, but prefers to remain uninvolved. Interests include music of the big band era, racquet sports, hiking and canoeing. I enjoy dressing and making 'Allison' just as feminine as she can be."

Allison B. (CAN-1656)

Helga D. (CAN-2759)

HELGA DAHLKE (ONT CAN) (#58)

5'8", 150, 64, hetero TV, married to a slightly supportive wife. Feminine, shy, not out of the closet yet, getting started again. "I like being dressed in nylon, satin, lacy feminine attire. Interests include camping (Owen Sound area), ballroom, square, and round dancing. Like to spend winters in Florida. Wish to meet others from my general area who have their wives' support, for help and friendship."

Helga D. (CAN-2759)

Daye P. (CAN-2913)

DAYE D. PAYNTER (ON CAN) (#58)

36, 5'11", 150, blue eyes, dancer's figure. "I feel like a child taking her first steps. I want to be a woman when I grow up. Am in need of friends, support, guidance, to share with. Professional singer/songwriter, artist, with very large, soon-to-be-realized dreams. I draw my inspiration and lifeblood form the woman inside."

Daye P. (CAN-2913)

ROBYN H. (CAN) (#58)

Member of Tri-Ess and Toronto Cross-dressers Club.

5'8", 150, 37, single, brunette. Interested in cooking and tennis. "I like to dress tastefully, not flashily. Have been dressing since I was fourteen years old. Looking for an understanding female friend."

Robyn H. (CAN-2033)

PRICILLA BEAULIEU (QUE CAN) (#58)

Member of IFGE.

Bilingual French-speaking journalist and writer from Montreal, 40, 5'6", 150. Interested in physics, literature, travel, politics, etc. "I am a masculine looking male, bearded, dress only in private. Live with children and girl friend. She knows but does not participate. Am interested in exploring all aspects of crossgender experience through correspondence, in French, if possible."

Pricilla B. (CAN-2142)

CYNTHIA ANNE WILLIAMS (ONT CAN) (#56)

5'11", 146, 29. SW hetero TV. Enjoys movies, reading, collecting rare books, manuscripts, and autographs. "I have been crossdressing for 20 years and would like to hear from others who enjoy my TV interests. I am not out of the closet, and, unfortunately, have not yet developed the courage to go on outings."

Cynthia W., P O Box 545, Postal Station D, Etobicoke, ONT. M9A 1BO (CAN-2559)

DEBORAH S. (ON CAN) (#56)

Member: Tiffany.

MWM, 42, lifelong CD. Quiet, caring, supportive wife and family. Cosmopolitan interests: music, art, poetry, cooking, gardening, sports, fashion, philosophy, science, etc. "Interested in meeting others, especially couples, for friendship and mutual support."

Deborah S. (CAN-2572)

GABRIELLE P. (ON CAN) (#58)

63, 6'3", muscular, walk daintily in heels in spite of size. Interested in high fashion shoes & lingerie. "In order to meet other TV's, I operate a bed & breakfast inn in my old schoolhouse/home in Singhampton. I love people to drop in."

Gabrielle P. (CA-2918)

Jennifer G. (CAN-2919)

JENNIFER CHRISTINE GRAY (BC CAN) (#56)

Member: Cornbury Society, (Vancouver).

5'9", 155, 39, hetero CD. "I enjoy shopping and dining en femme with my wife, and corresponding with like couples."

Jennifer G. (CAN-2919)

MINA (QUE CAN) (#58)

Events Attended: Dressing for Pleasure.

6', 170, TV, with very supportive wife. "Our interests are varied. We travel frequently. We enjoy fantasy development and role playing as part of our 'Rituals of Belonging.' Although I am passable, we are looking for methods to further increase my femininity. Interested in couples who share our aspirations. Discretion expected and assured, as we both have professional careers."

Mina & Princess Shelba, P O Box 664, Beaconsfield, QUEBEC, Canada H9W 5V3 (CAN-2955)

ROBERTA S. (ONT CAN) (#59)

5'8", 250, full beard. Interested in baseball, football, dressing at home. "I am at a crossroads in my life. At forty-nine, I am experiencing a refreshing breath of fresh air, something I should have done long ago. This decision might cause the break up of my fifteen-year marriage. My wife knew about my wearing panties and disapproved. When she finds about the rest, all hell is going to break loose. Hope to find someone able to help me find my way as a hetero crossdresser."

Roberta S. (CAN-3134)

PUERTO RICO

ANDRERA FERNANDINI (PR) (#59)
5'7", 140, 27, white, romantic, sincere. Interested in books, travel, art, theater. "I would like to correspond with or meet a pre- or post-op TS."
Andrera F. (PR-2817)

ROBERTA J. CAMPBELL (PR) (#57)
6'2", 225, brown hair, brown eyes, single, 44. Bookworm and avid movie collector. "I'm a pre-op TS. Looking to write, talk and mingle with others who share the same problem. Also interested in forming a support group in Puerto Rico."
Robert C. (PR-2838)

MEXICO

Laura M. (MEX-2670)
LAURA MORENO (MEX) (#56)
Events attended: None - This is Mexico ..you know, "machismo"!
MWM, 39, 5'10", 140, brown hair/eyes. Life-long crossdresser, passable at times, guilt-free. "Just coming out of the closet. Like to dress like a lady. Wish to meet new friends (sincere, secure TV/TS couples) for mutual support. Would like to join or form a TV/TS group in Mexico City. I like to dance, cook, listen to music, reading about the psychological aspects of TV/TSism."
Laura M. (MEX-2670)

UNITED KINGDOM

Ann F. (Sctlnd-2791)
ANNE FORRESTER (SCOTLAND) (#57)
Member: Scottish TV/TS Group.
Hetero TV, separated, 60, going on 40. Writer and editor (Ph.D.). Love to travel. "I've only recently been able to indulge my love of skirts, heels and hose. Generally passable, and love going out, but not out of the closet yet. Ann dresses conservatively like a modern business woman, but loves the chance to put on a ball gown. Wish to hear from any supportive 'real live girls'."
Anne F. (Scotland-2791)

CELIA SCOTT-SHEPHERD (ENG) (#57)
Member: Beaumont Society, Gender Dysphoria Trust (UK).
Widower, 5'9", 145. Occasional TV from age 4 to partner's death. Now getting more deeply involved. Interested especially in language and music. "Would like to receive audio tapes in exchange for my 'first and second voices' tape."
Celia S., P O Box 1351, London N16 7XX, England (ENG-1904)

EUROPE

Helen S. (FRA-2178)
HELEN S. (FRANCE) (#59)
Member: Trans-CCL (Paris).
TV, 57, 5'11", blonde. Enjoy everything feminine. Interested in classical music, arts, reading, biking. "I especially enjoy writing or meeting with sisters and understanding ladies. Wish contact with other European members."
Helen S. (FRA-2178)

Yvonne T. (GER-3050)
YVONNE THOMPSON (GERMANY) (#58)
Member: IFGE.
Hetero TV, 5'9", 158, reddish brown hair, almost passable. Interested in photography, jazz of the 40's and 50's, traveling.
"I enjoy any opportunity to be Yvonne. I like fine lingerie, ladylike clothing, pretty shoes, and perfect make-up. Wife does tolerate, but is not supportive. Have been dressed up many times in public. Would like to correspond with sisters in Europe and in the USA."
Yvonne Thompson (GER-3050)

Jenny S. (NOR-2584)
JENNY SAND (NORWAY) (#56)
Member: FPE-Northern Europe.
Hetero TV, 36, 5'8", 120. Enjoys low-budget world travel, meeting warm, open-minded, humorous people. Interests range from literature, music, art and film, carpentry, and mechanics. "Love to feel feminine, and strive for perfection. Go out dressed with friends and other TV's. Do not always pass. Interested in hearing from anyone, especially those who would be interested in being my local guides when travelling the US."
Jenny S. (NOR-2584)

AUSTRALIA

MARINA LANG (AUS) (#56)
Member: Seahorse Club of Victoria.
Participant: Cup Eve Ball, Arts Ball.
TS, 194 cm (6'6"), blonde. Enjoys classical music, oil painting, theater, concerts, eating out in restaurants, fashion, and dress design. "I would like to hear from other very tall IFGE members."
Marina Lang, G.P.O. Box 1177K, Melbourne, 3001 Australia (AUS-0693)

TANYA ALYCE (AUS) (#57)
6', 33, slim, TV with TS tendencies. Interested in feminine clothes, make-up, swimming, tennis. "I would enjoy hearing from other TS/TV's with view to share experiences and problems."
Tanya Alyce, P O Box R 414 Royal Exchange, Sydney, Australia 2000 (AUS-2880)

HONG KONG

ROSEMARY MARYON LANGTON (HONG KONG) (#56)
Member: Beaumont Society.
MWM, lifelong TV, 58. Enjoys dress making, travel, corresponding with and meeting TV's. "Am a committed TV, pass easily. Wife and adult children know and accept Rosemary. Love going to beauty salons. Have extensive wardrobe both of current fashions and maid, little girl, maternity, and Japanese outfits. I like to correspond with and possibly meet TV's everywhere as I travel extensively."
Rosemary Langton, G.P.O. Box 9171, Hong Kong (HK-1792)

JAPAN

JOAN C. (JAPAN) (#58)
Black, heterosexual, TV, 5'10", 185. "Married to a loving Japanese woman who has become understanding of my need to crossdress. Am very shy, and would love to come out of the closet, but the nature of my profession prevents it. Enjoy mathematics, reading Japanese, computers, chess, and Japanese shogi. Would love to meet and correspond with CD/TV/TS. Please write."
Joan C. (APO-3083)

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Maria bounced into the makeup room, and daintily pulled a couple of tissues from the box on the makeup table, "Had a little accident," she exclaimed, and she whirled away.

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She adjusted the wig, stood up and chose a wide, red belt from the bag on the floor. With one final inspection before the full length mirror, she gazed in rapture at herself. "Maybe next time I'll wear the floral print dress," she mused, her white teeth sparkling between perfect ruby lips.

Francine closed her bag, placed it in the corner with the others and walked into the party room. She was immediately enveloped in the warmth and smiles of the other guests.

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(Photographs and interviews with crossdressers & transgenderists and their partners, children, & friends, E.P. Dutton, Inc., NYC.)

(Available through IFGE.)

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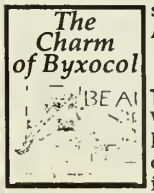
It's All In Your Mind By Susan Peerless
High on drugs and speed four pool hall toughs in a 1959 candy red convertible suddenly vanish from 1968 into a phontonic power grid to discover 2395; a Dominatrix called Bee; and, Sam, who created a whole universe where magic work-ed just for them - Mentalia. Here, inorder to survive, they take jobs in Varve Penure's Living Montages. Imagine being transformed into a milk maid, a centaur mare being chased by a stallion, or a sexy Apache dancer in a Paris cafe.... And this is where reality begins...



The Charm of Byxocol By Olivia Evans
While exploring the ruins of ancient Byxocol Mark and Linda Harrison, archeologists, found a crystal figure resting in the dust remains of a Mayan long dead for five centuries. Could this strange crystal carved into the form of a half-man half-woman really be the cause of Mark's strange problems: the loss of his luggage; the strange switch of hormones for vitamins; and the resultant transformation of Mark into Jennifer? Was it the Charm of Byxocol, or a CURSE visited upon an invader of an ancient tomb?

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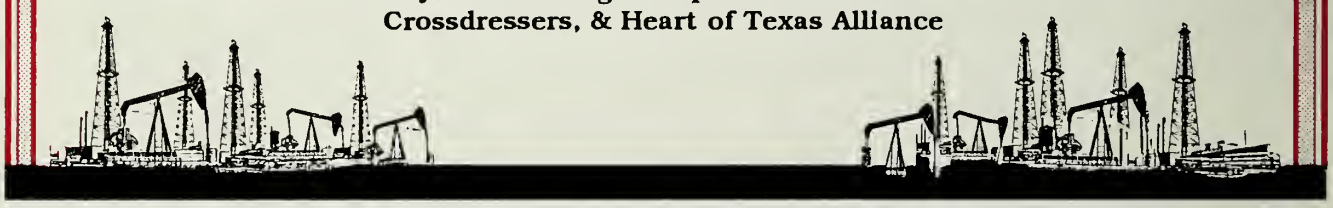
Host Organizations: **Gulf Coast Transgender Community, Tau Chi Chapter-Tri Ess, Boulton & Park Society, Delta Omega Chapter - Tri Ess, Woman Associated With Crossdressers, & Heart of Texas Alliance**



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